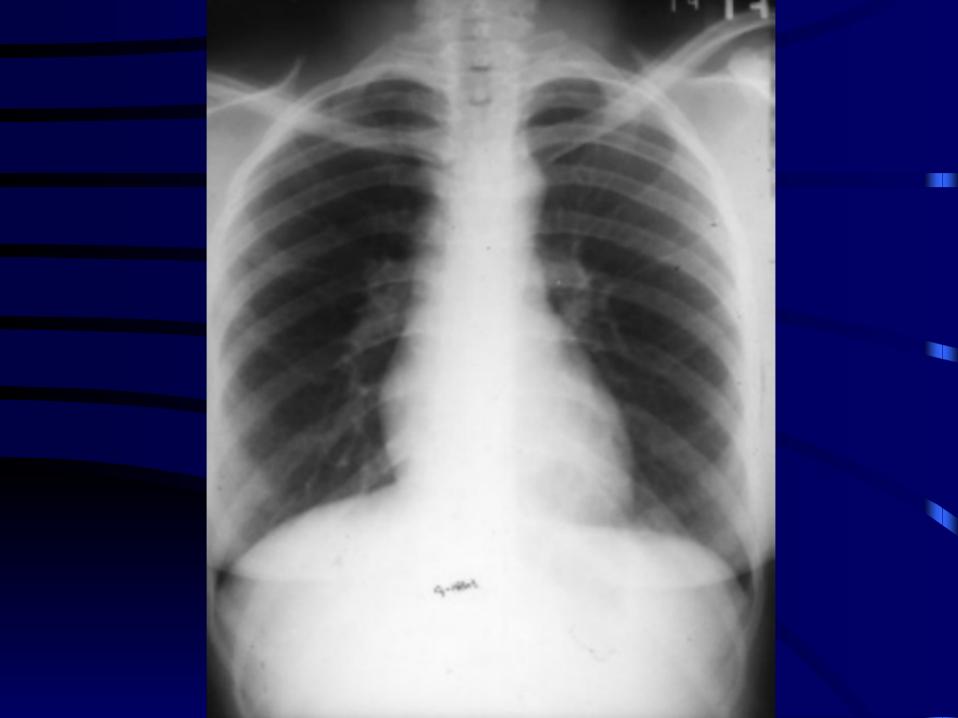
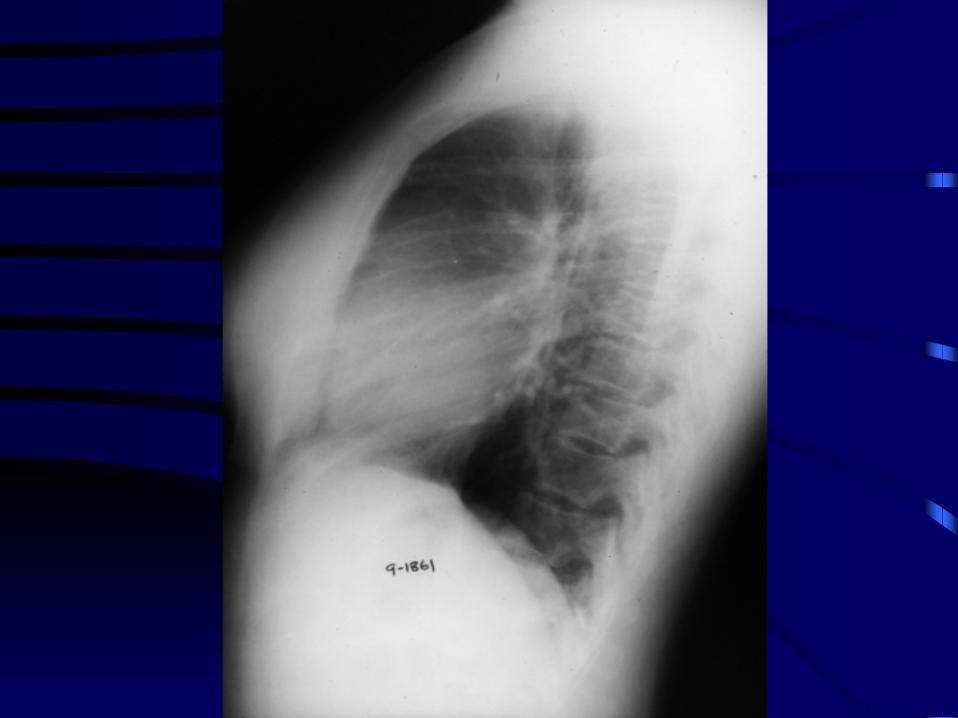
FUNDAMENTALS of THORACIC IMAGING

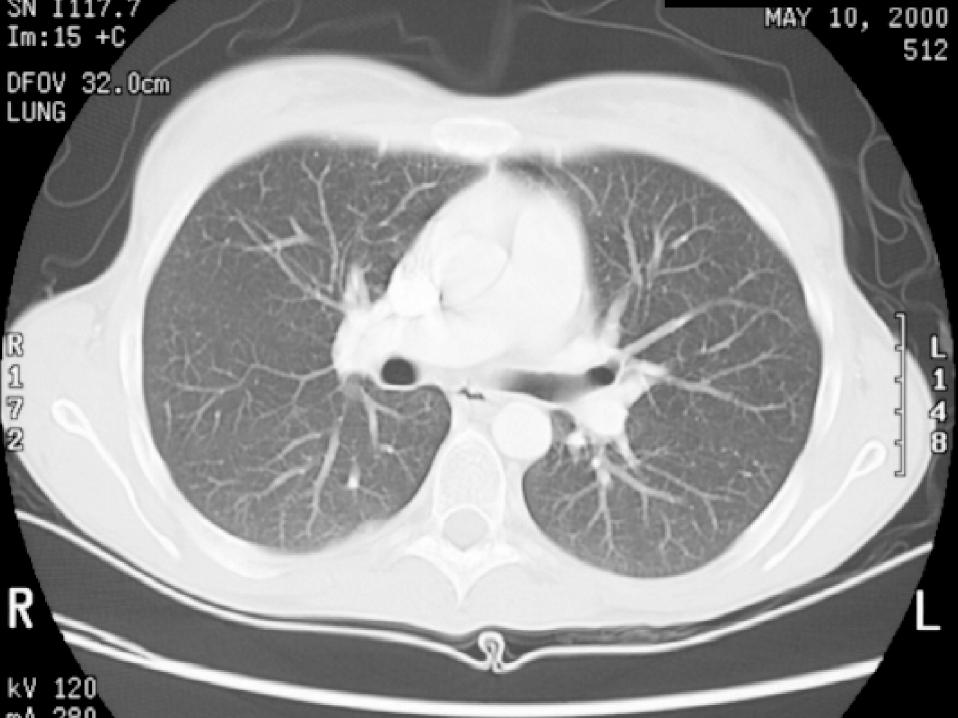
DAVID S. FEIGIN, M.D.

Colonel, MC, USA

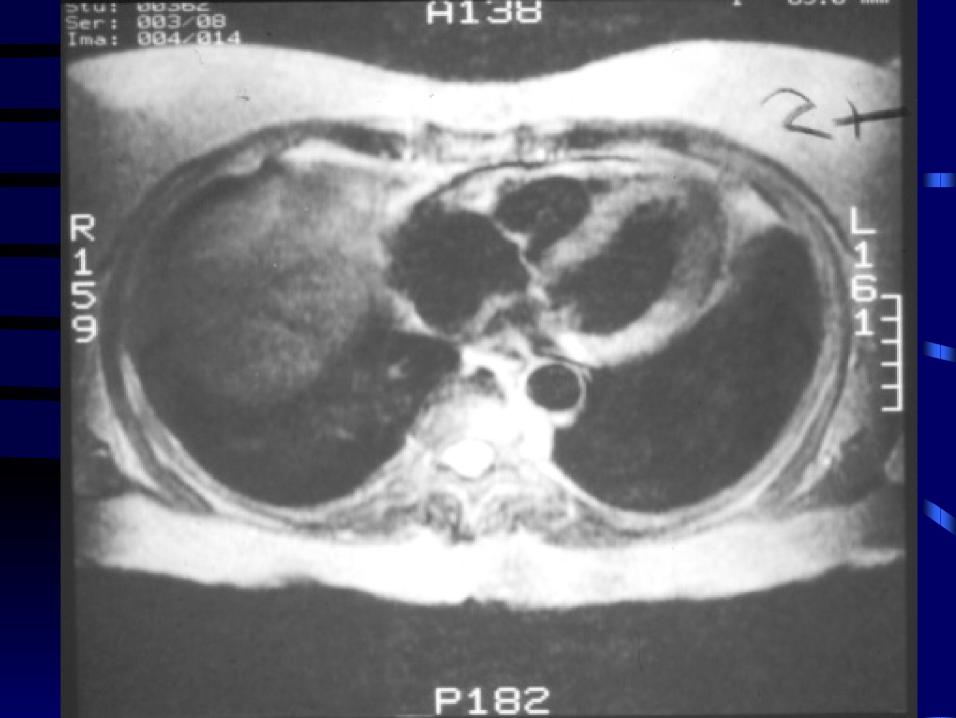
Department of Radiology
Uniformed Services University









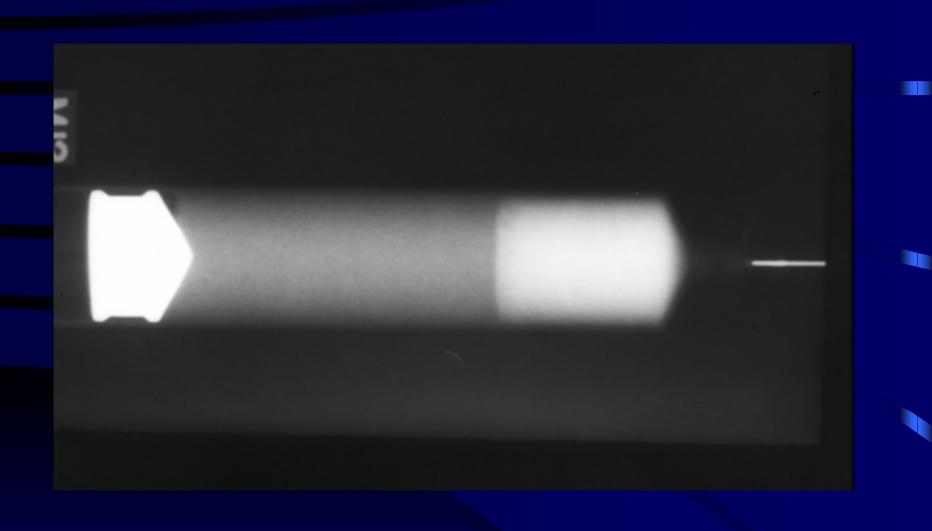


Terms Frequently Used and Misused

- DENSITY Whiteness, or any area of whiteness, on an image
- LUCENCY Blackness, or any area of blackness, on an image
- SHADOW Anything visible on an image; hence, any specific density or lucency
- EDGE Any visible demarcation between a density on one side and lucency on the other

Terms Frequently Used and Misused cont.

- •LINE A thin density with lucency on both sides or a thin lucency with density on both sides
- •STRIPE Either edge or line
- •SILHOUETTE Synonym for edge; the loss of an edge constitutes the "silhouette sign"

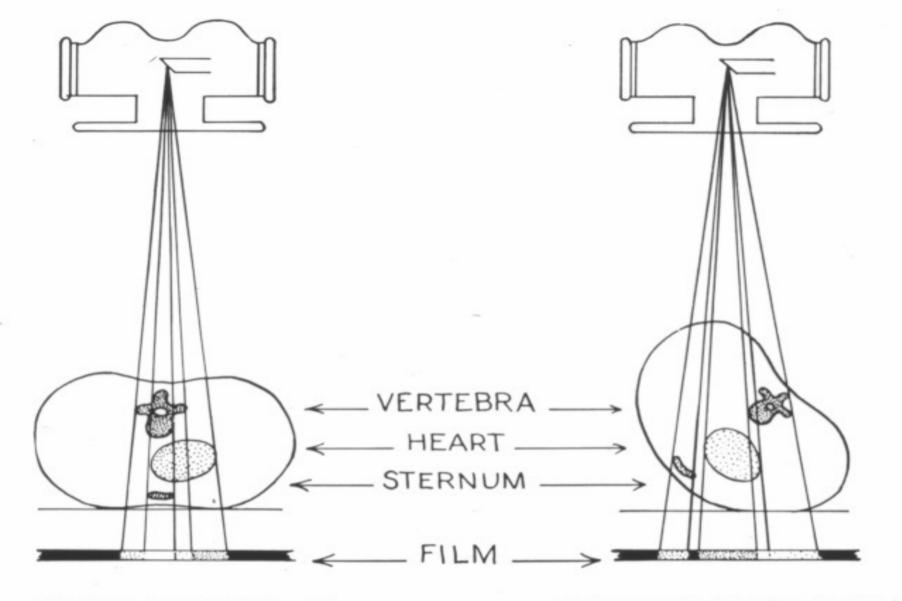


"The Rules of Visibility"

• "Rule number 1" - The edge of any structure is only visible if it is bordered by a structure of different fundamental density

"The Rules of Visibility" #1 cont.

- On a chest radiograph, the only fundamental densities are air, soft tissues (including fat and blood) and calcium.
- Rule number 1 is not altered by patient position, direction of x-ray beam, or by technique



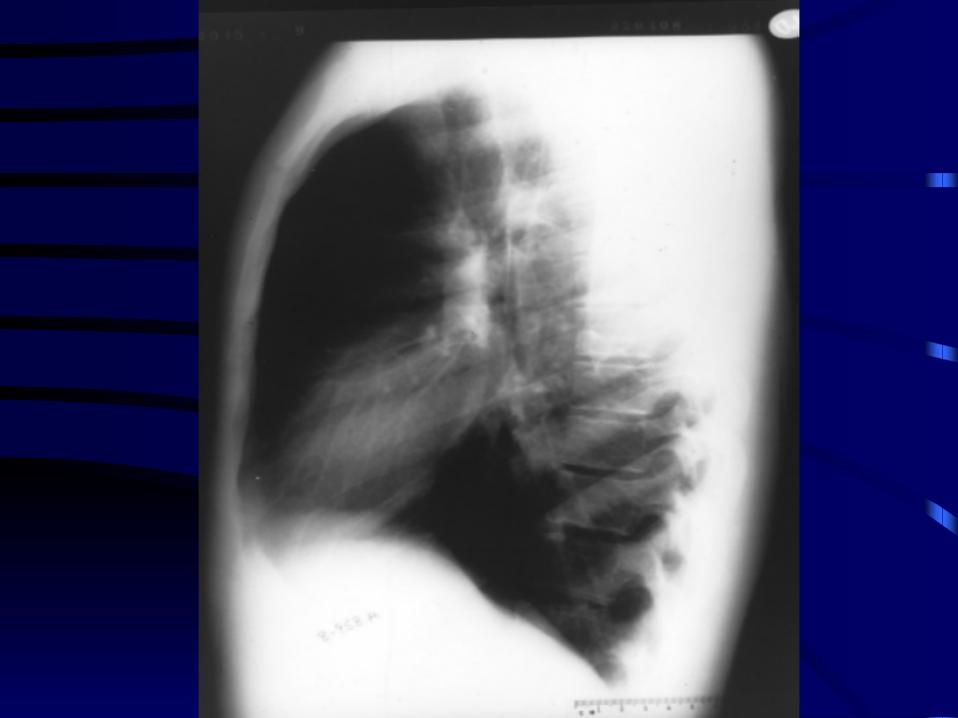
SUPERIMPOSITION OF STRUCTURES LYING ONE ABOVE THE OTHER OVERCOME BY PROJECTING AWAY SUPERIMPOSED PARTS BY ROTATION OF BODY (OR TILTING OF TUBE)

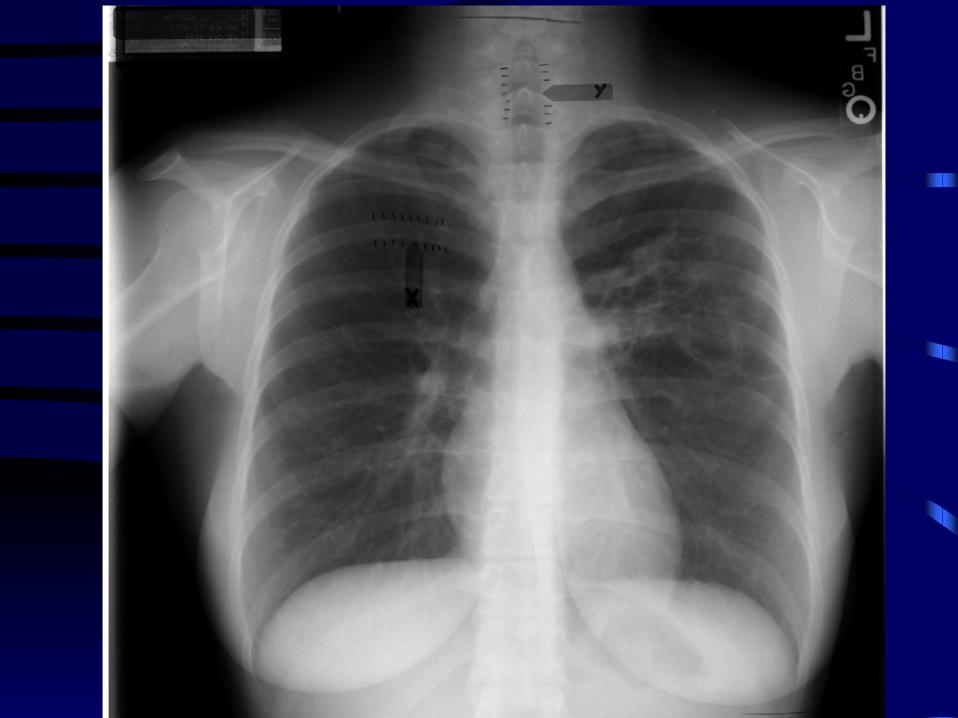


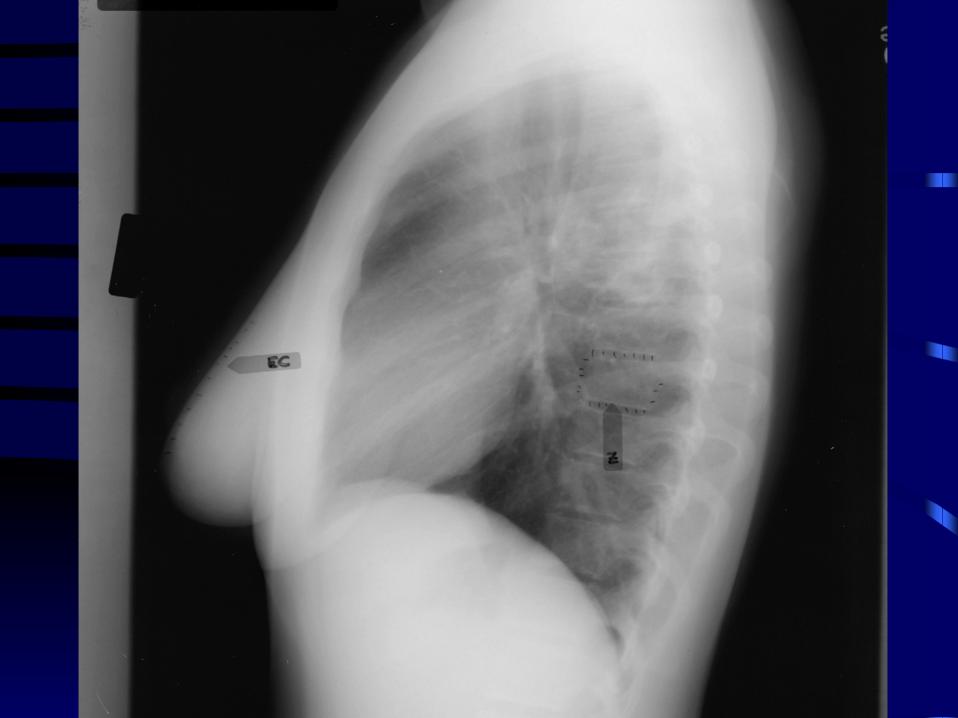
"The Rules of Visibility" cont.

• "Rule number 2" - The lightness and darkness of any part of the image is the result of all structures through which the x-ray beam has passed









"The Rules of Visibility" #2 cont.

• Lightness and darkness are easily changed by technique, but the whole film will be similarly affected

THE NORMAL LUNG

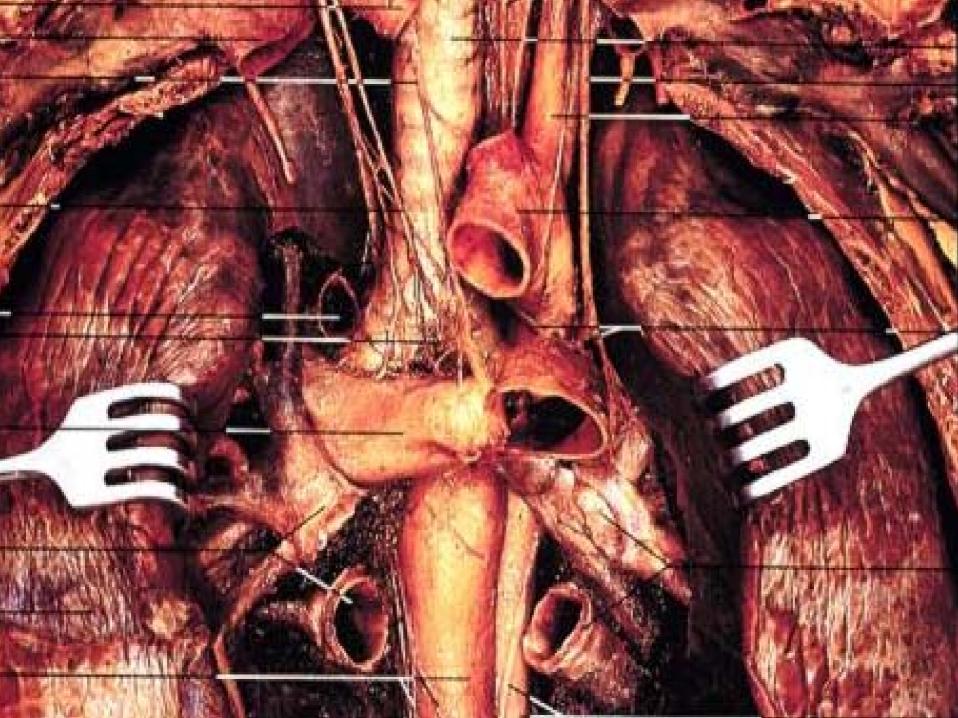
- The Hilum
 - The hilum is the anatomic connection of the lung to mediastinum and therefore consists of a variety of vessels, bronchi, and lymph nodes
 - The visible portion of each normal hilum is the right or left pulmonary artery
 - The pulmonary veins are inferior and posterior to the arteries





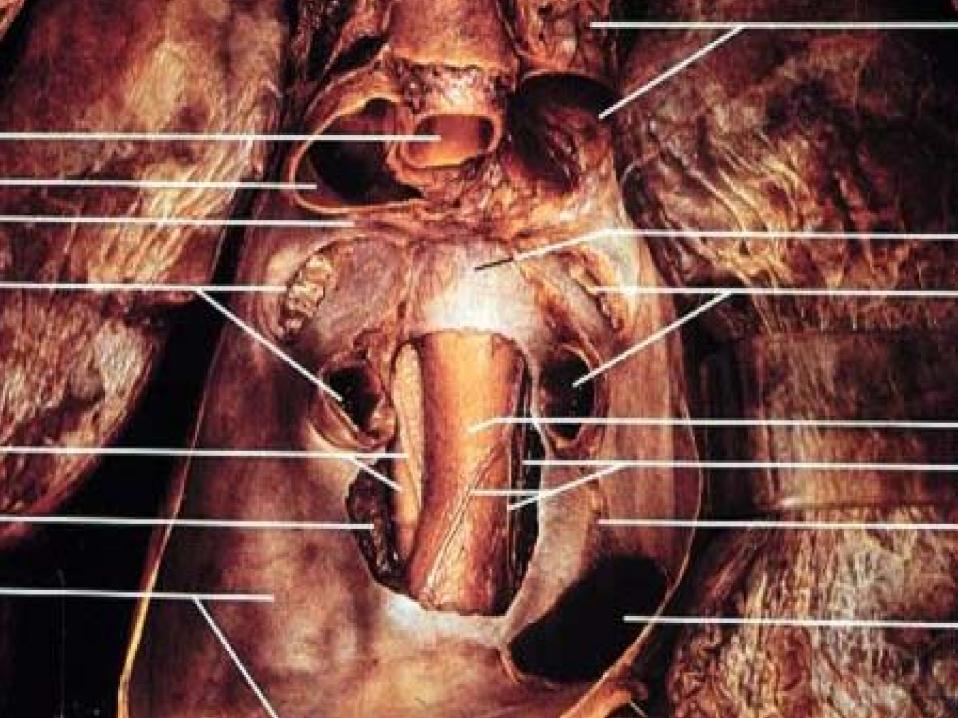
Normal lung cont.

- The pulmonary veins are inferior and posterior to the pulmonary arteries
 - Located behind the edges of the heart on the frontal view
 - Overlapping many other structures on the lateral view
 - The major bronchi are visible as lucencies
 - The lymph nodes are too small to be visible when normal



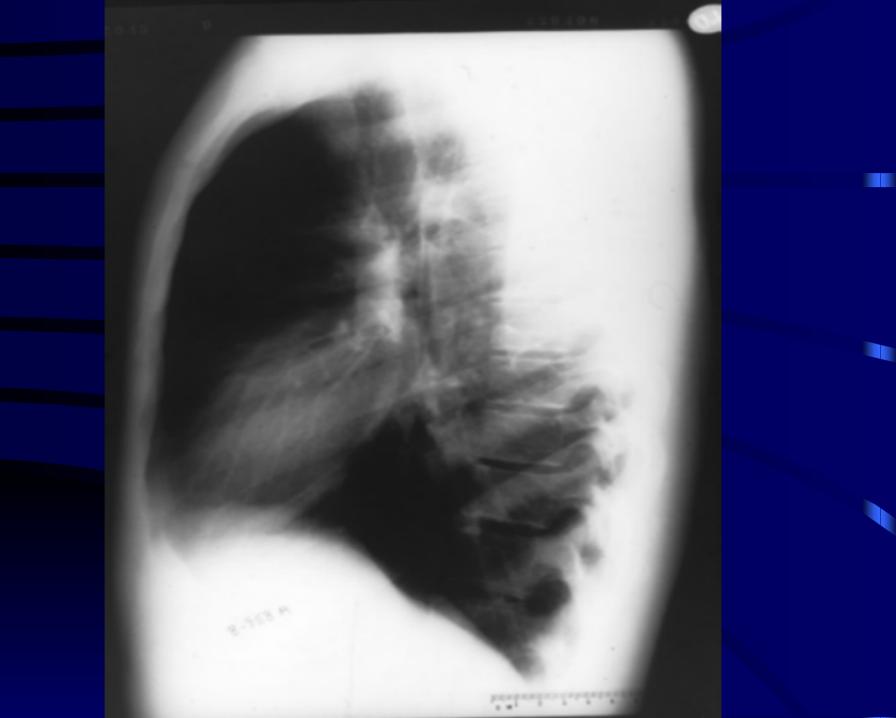






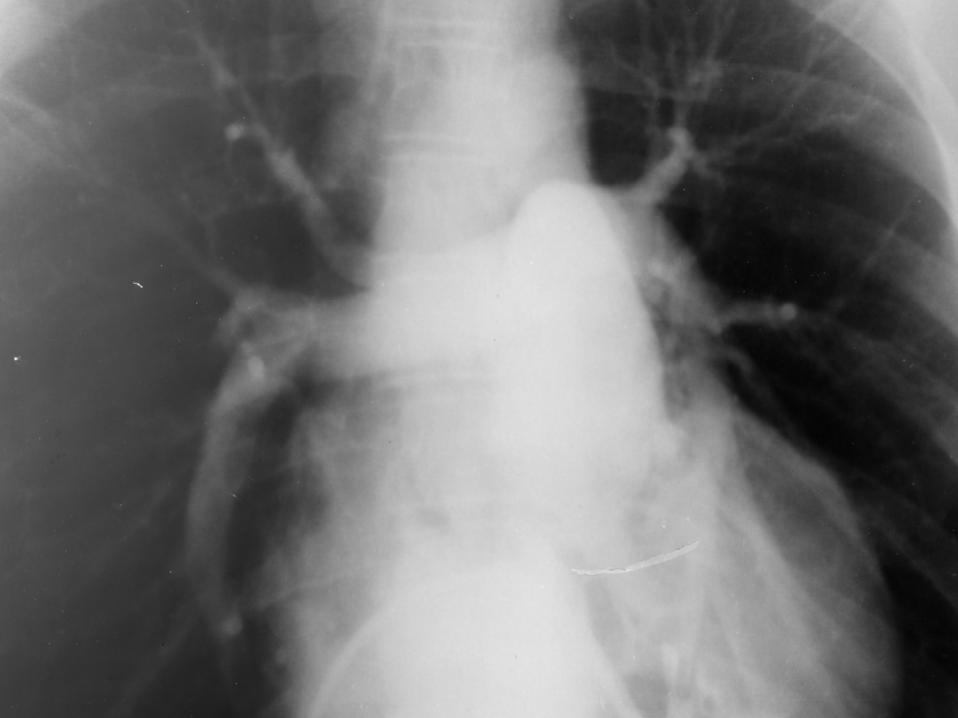
Normal Lung cont.

- The right and left pulmonary arteries are clearly visible on the lateral view, in the center of the image
- The right pulmonary artery is just anterior to the air column (trachea continuous with main bronchi) and left pulmonary artery is just posterior









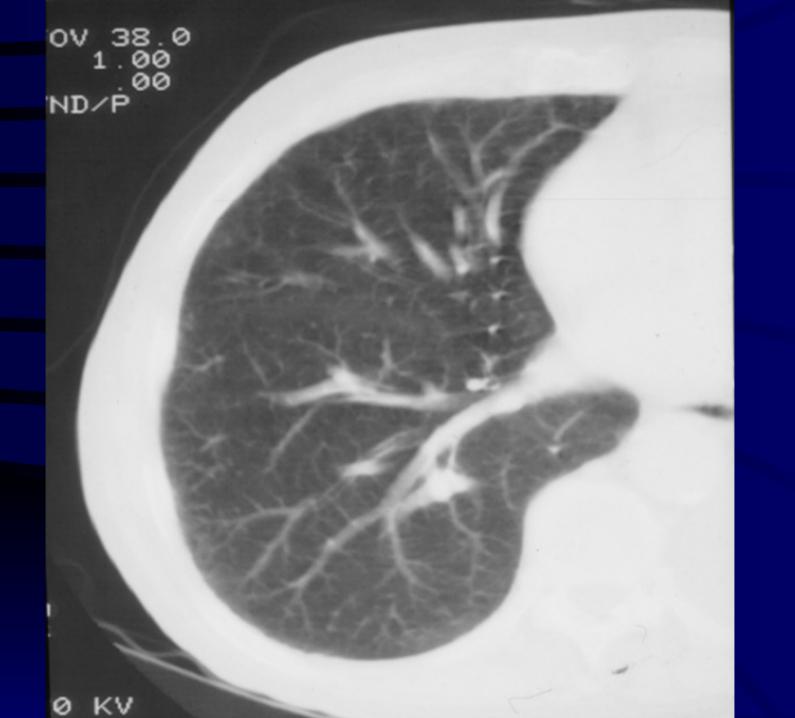


NORMAL LUNG MARKINGS

- The only normal densities within the lungs are the pulmonary vessels when filled with blood
- The normal markings (vessels) can always be followed from the hilum toward the lung periphery in all directions
- They branch at acute angles, taper and diverge toward the periphery









Normal Lung markings cont.

- Markings on end appear as small masses or nodules
 - They are recognized as normal vessels by the fact that they are superimposed upon vessels of the same diameter branching in other directions
- Abnormal pulmonary markings are all shadows in addition to the normal markings
 - Many such shadows obscure the normal markings or displace them



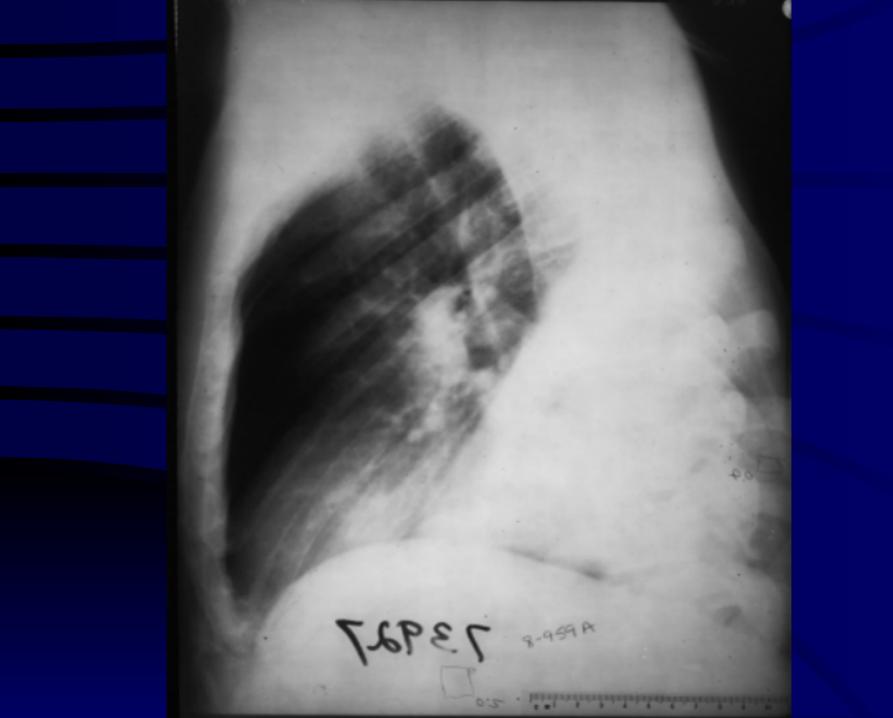




Normal Lung markings cont.

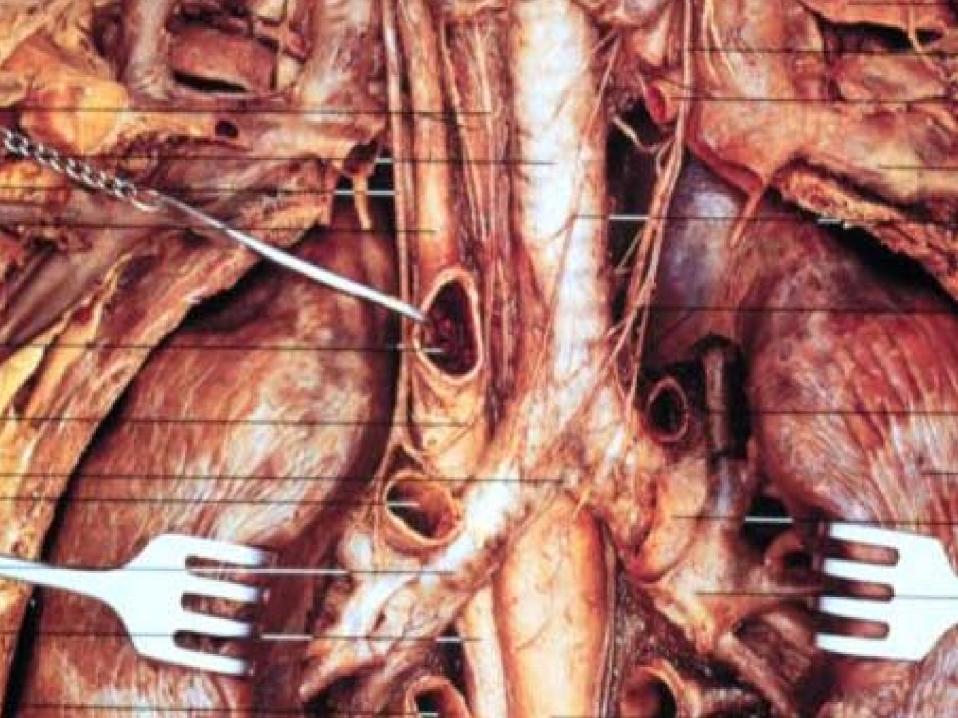
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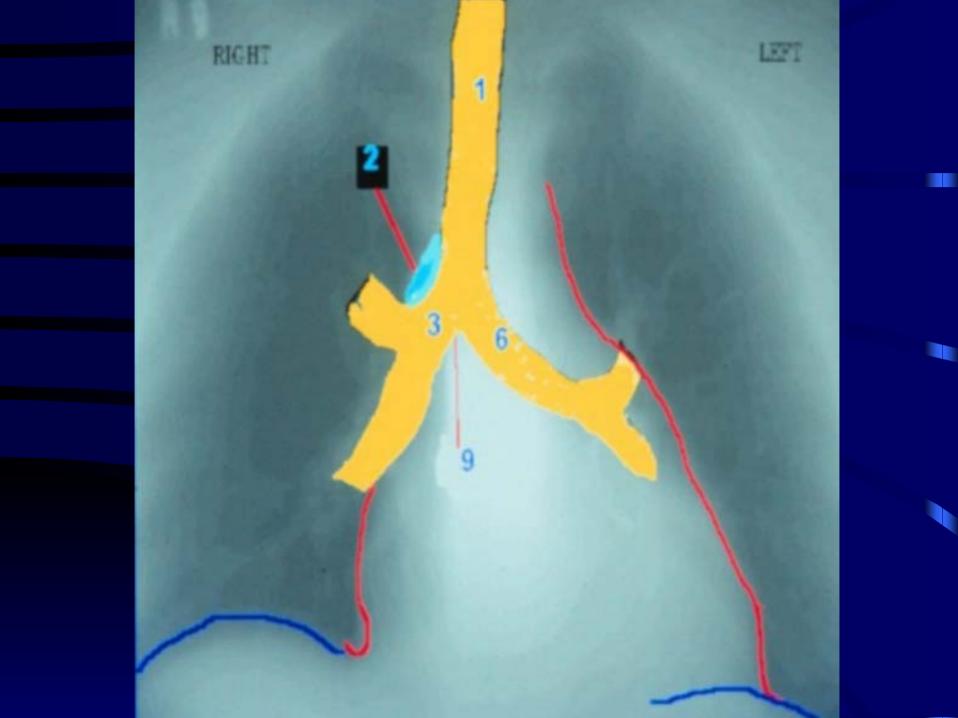




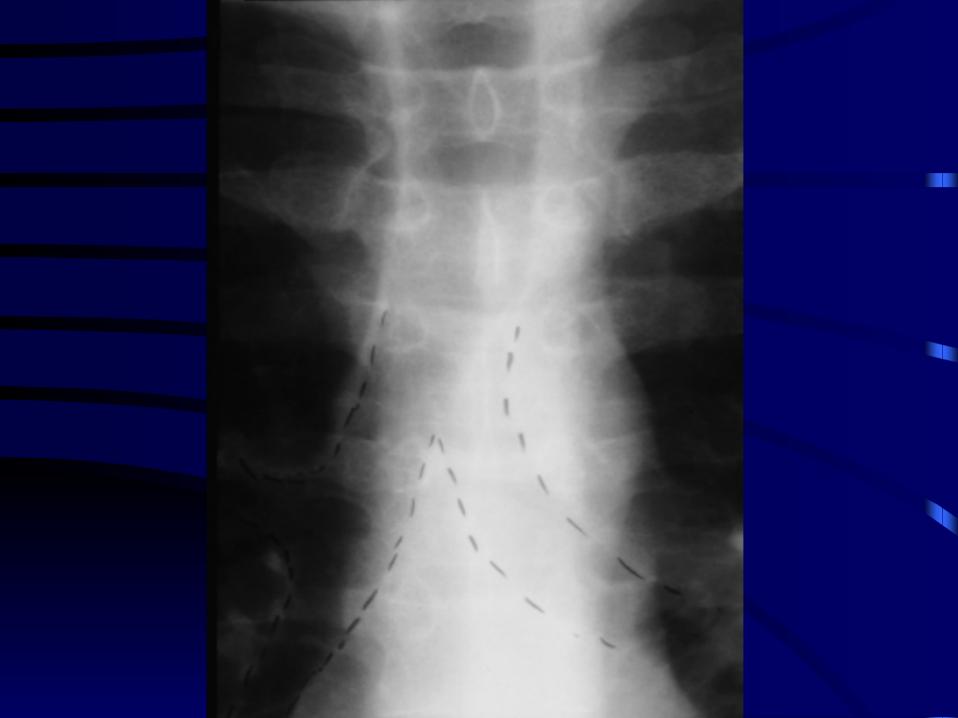
The AIRWAY

- The trachea is visible on both frontal and lateral views because it satisfies Rule #1
- The main bronchi are visible within the mediastinum and the medial portion of the hilum
- Once a bronchus is surrounded by air-filled alveoli, it becomes invisible because nearly all normal bronchial walls are too thin to be visible lines

















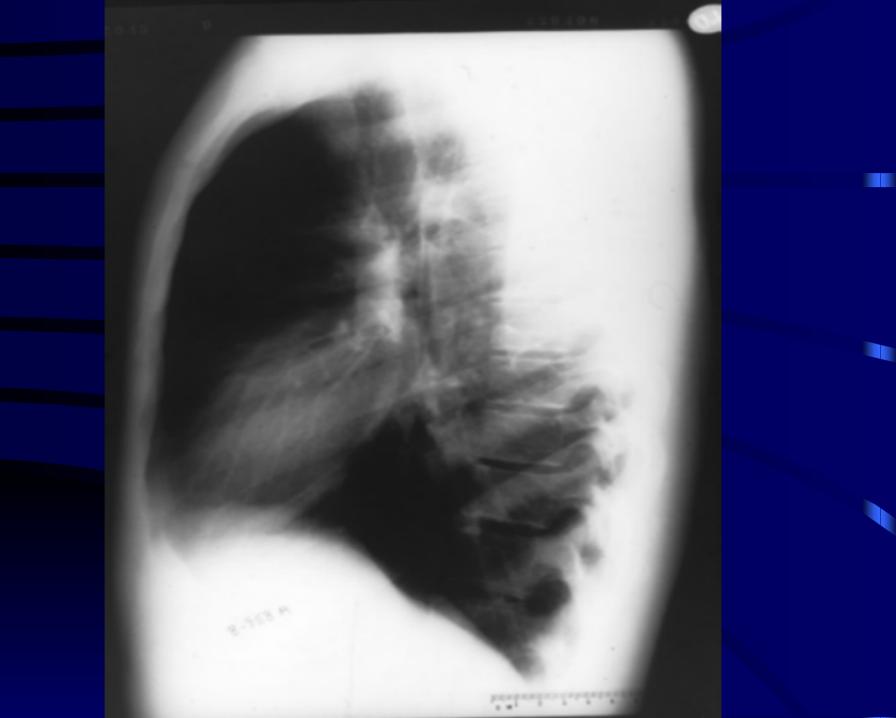
Demystifying the Lateral View

- The air column, which includes the trachea and largest bronchi, is visible because it satisfies Rule Number 1
 - The carina is not visible on the later view because the main bronchi continue in the same direction as the trachea
 - The round lucency in the center of the lateral view is the distal portion of the left main bronchus as it becomes horizontal



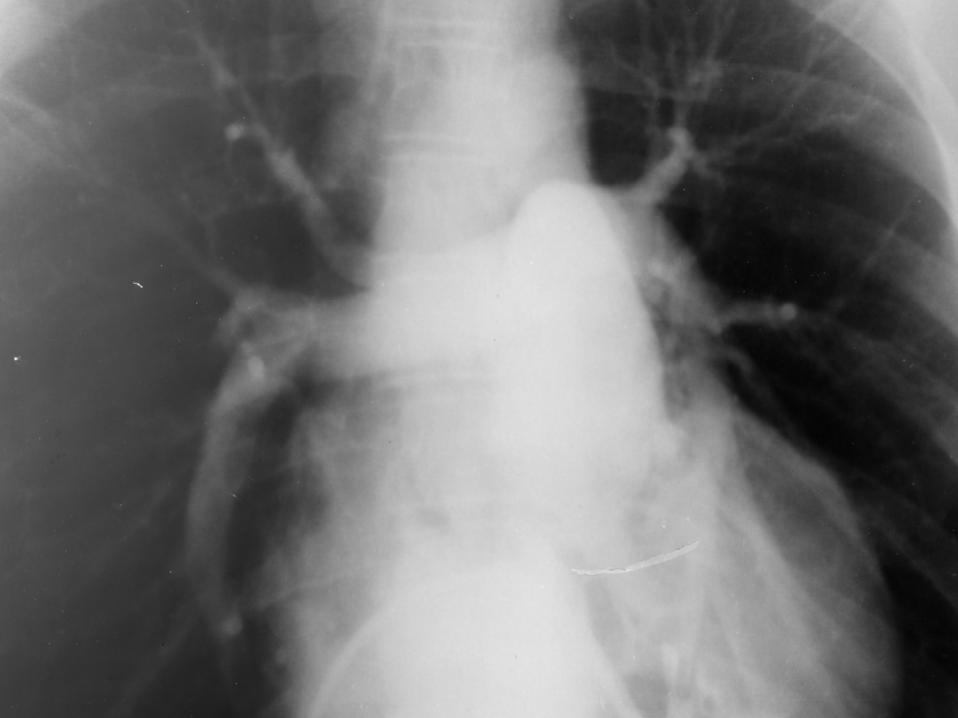
Demystifying lateral view cont.

- The lateral view of the hila surrounds the left bronchial lucency
- The heart shadow
 - The only margin of the heart that is visible as a dinstinct edge is the back of the left ventricle, which satisfies Rule #1 by bordering the left lower lobe of the lung
 - The top of the heart shadow is never a distinct edge because the pulmonary artery and aorta, rather than lung, are directly above the heart





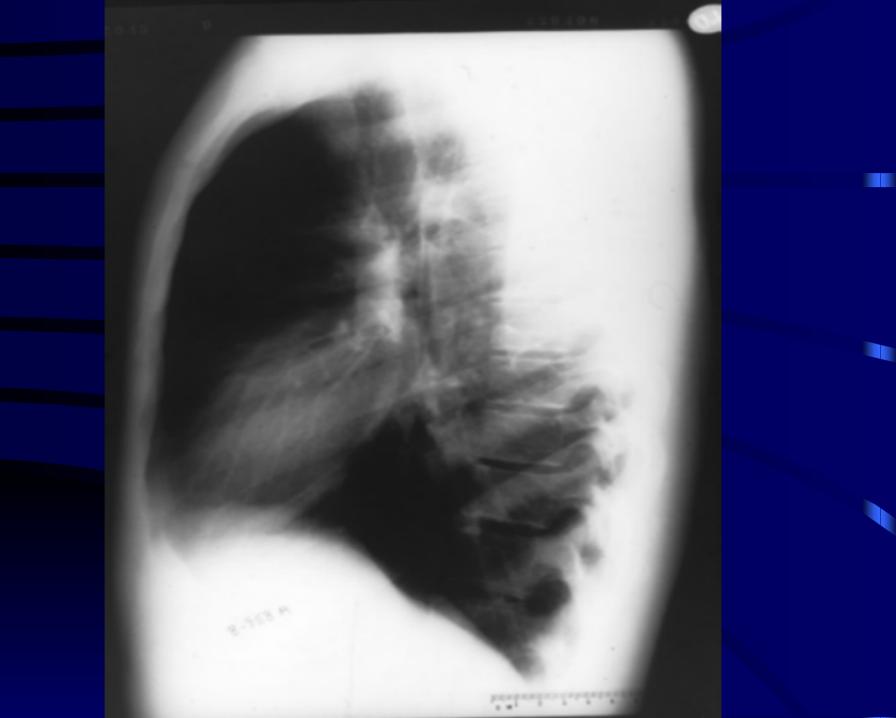






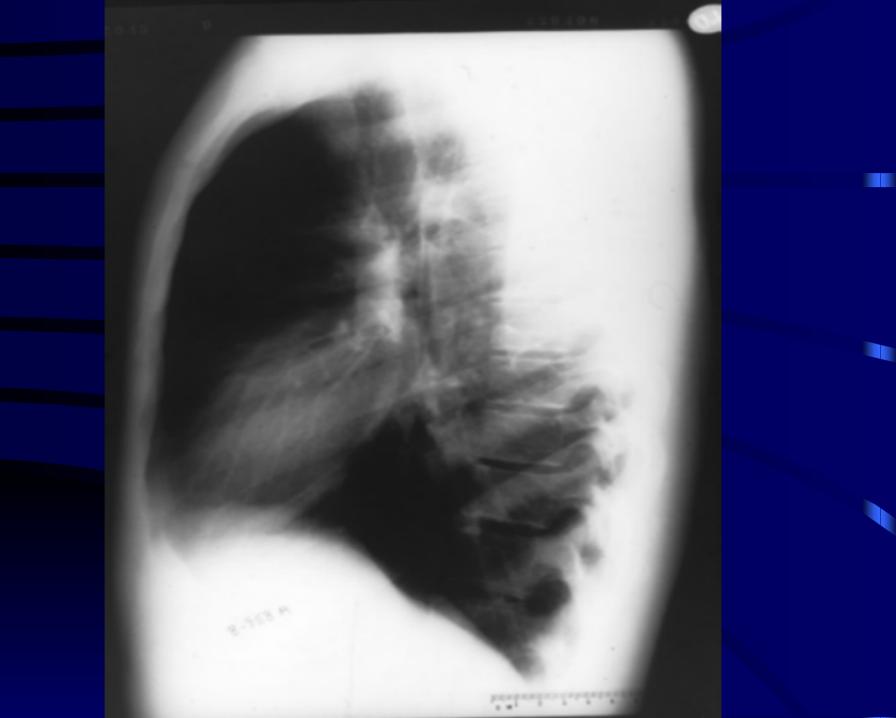
Demystifying lateral view cont.

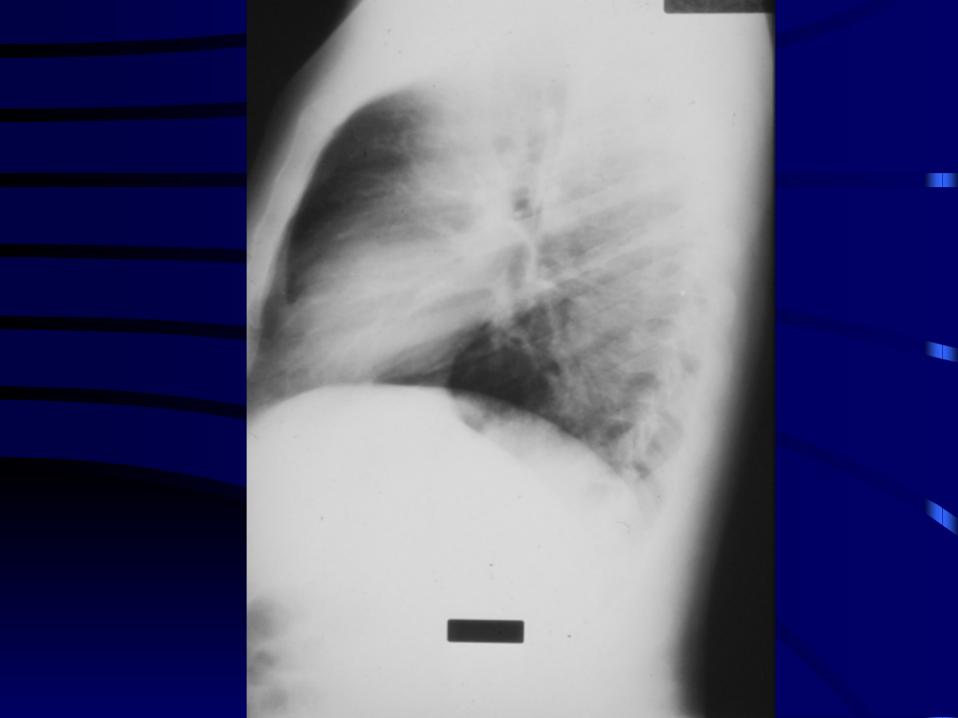
- The relative lucency above the heart shadow is caused by the relative thinness of the mediastinum in that region
- It is thus an example of Rule number 2 and does not have distinct margins
- The thoracic spine always appears increasingly lucent from top to bottom, until it crosses the diaphragms. This is another manifestion of Rule number 2



Demystifying lateral view cont.

- The relative lucency above the heart shadow is caused by the relative thinness of the mediastinum in that region
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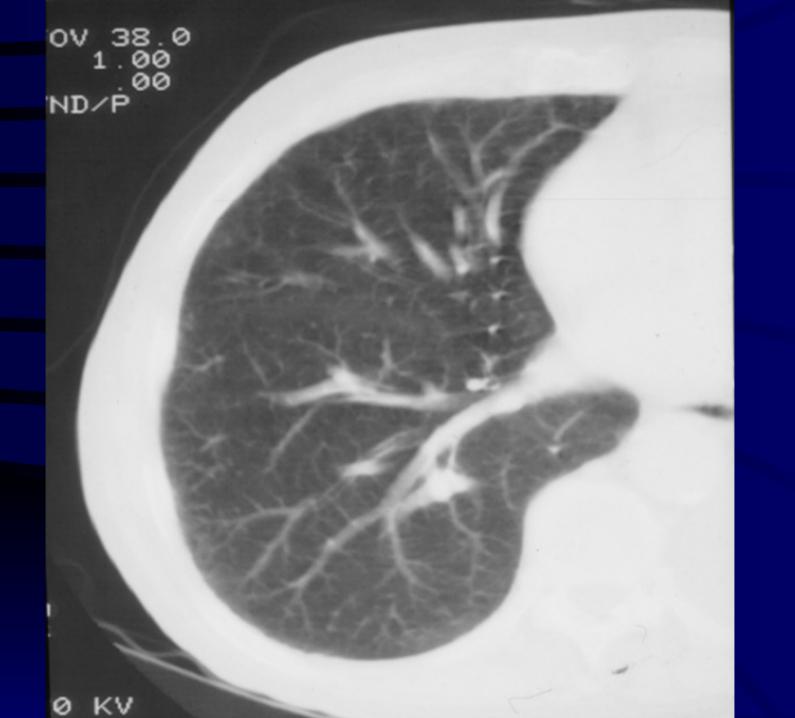




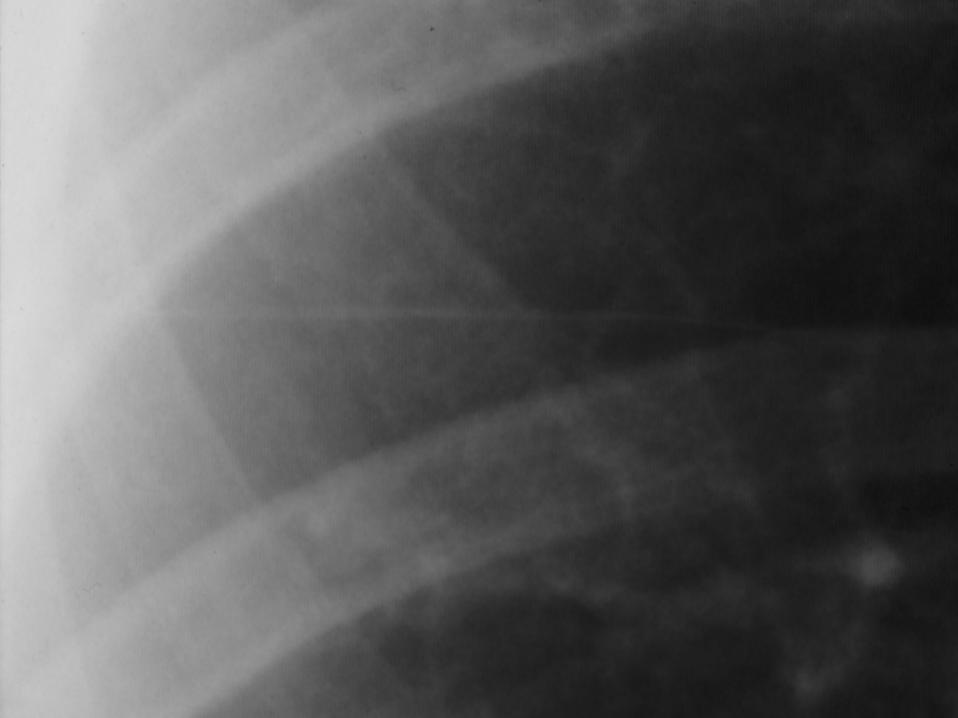
Lungs

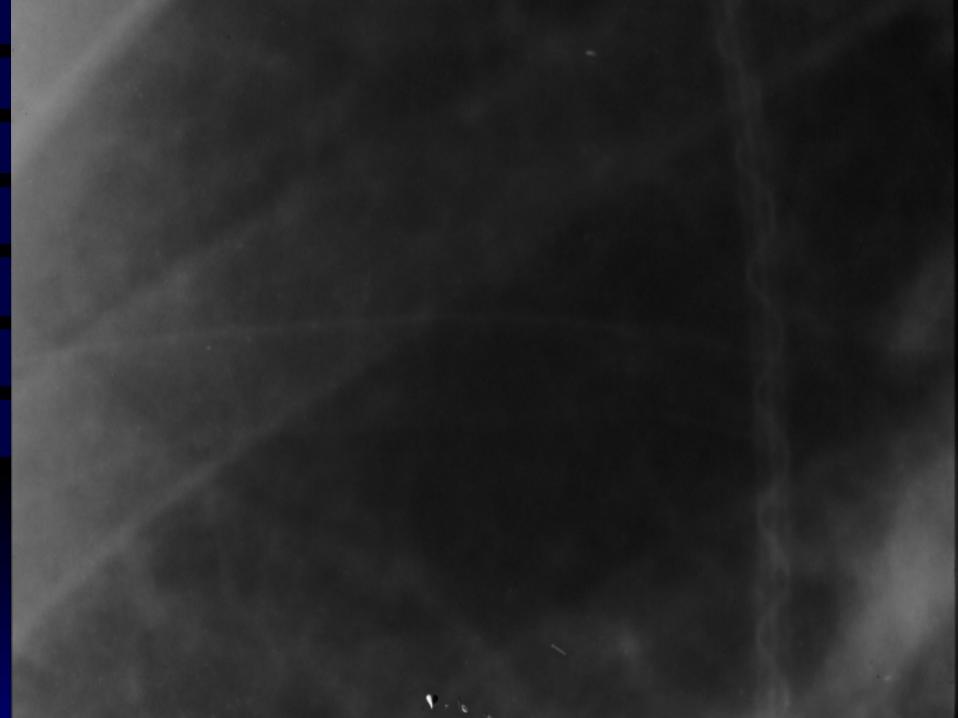
- Markings (Vessels)
- Minor fissure

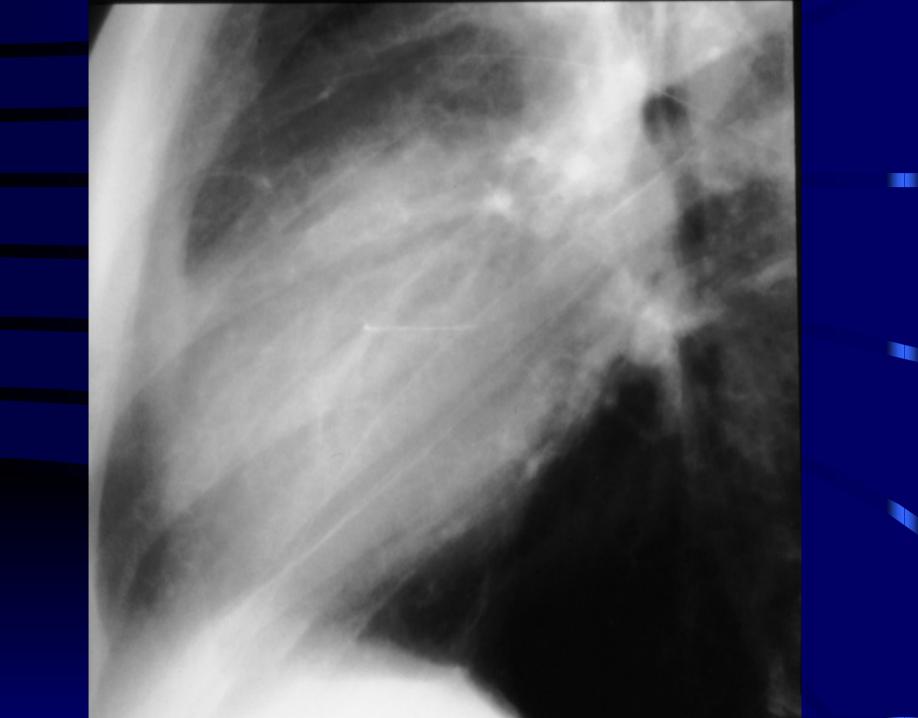






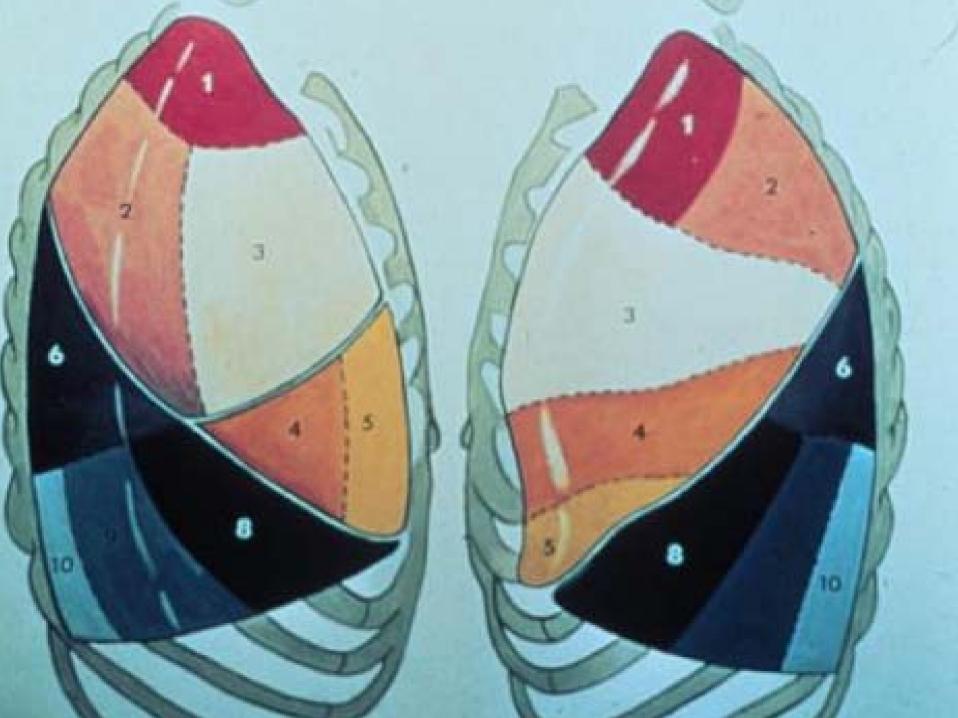


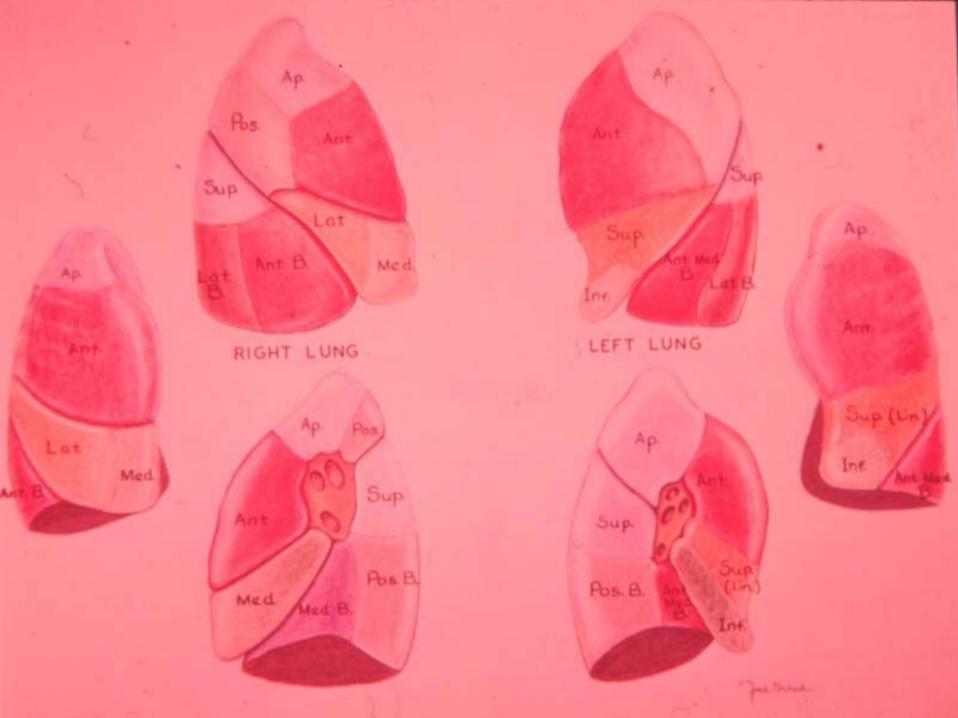








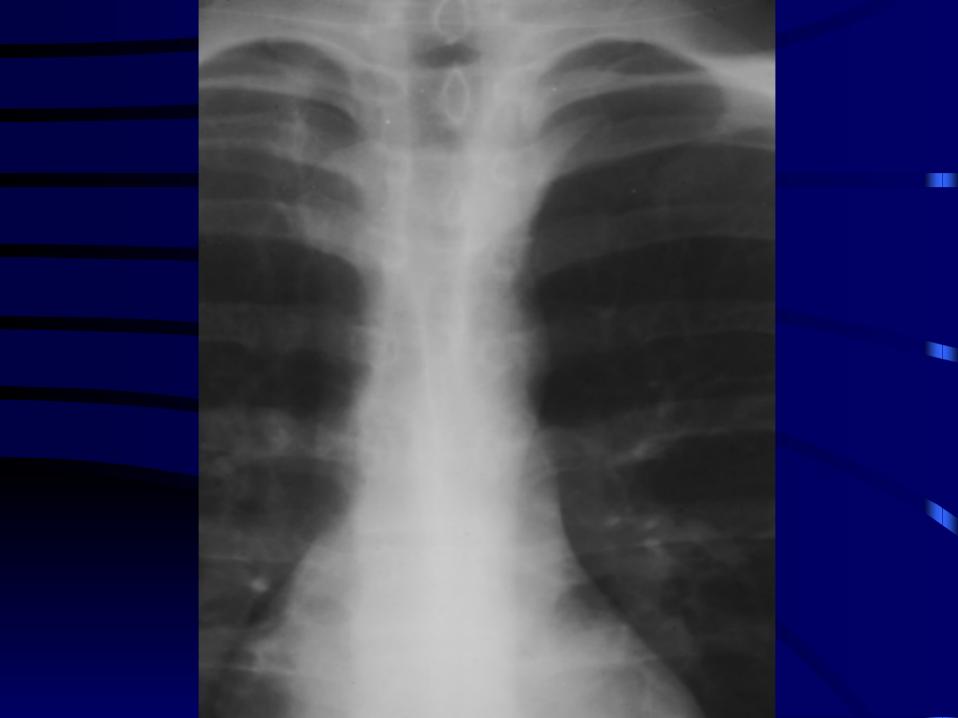


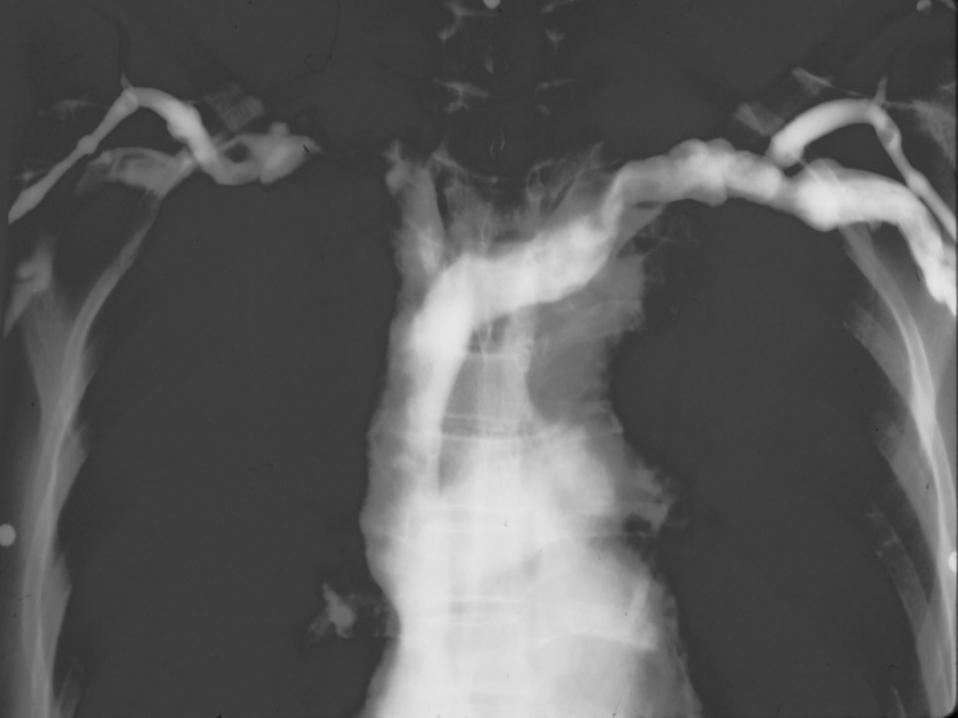


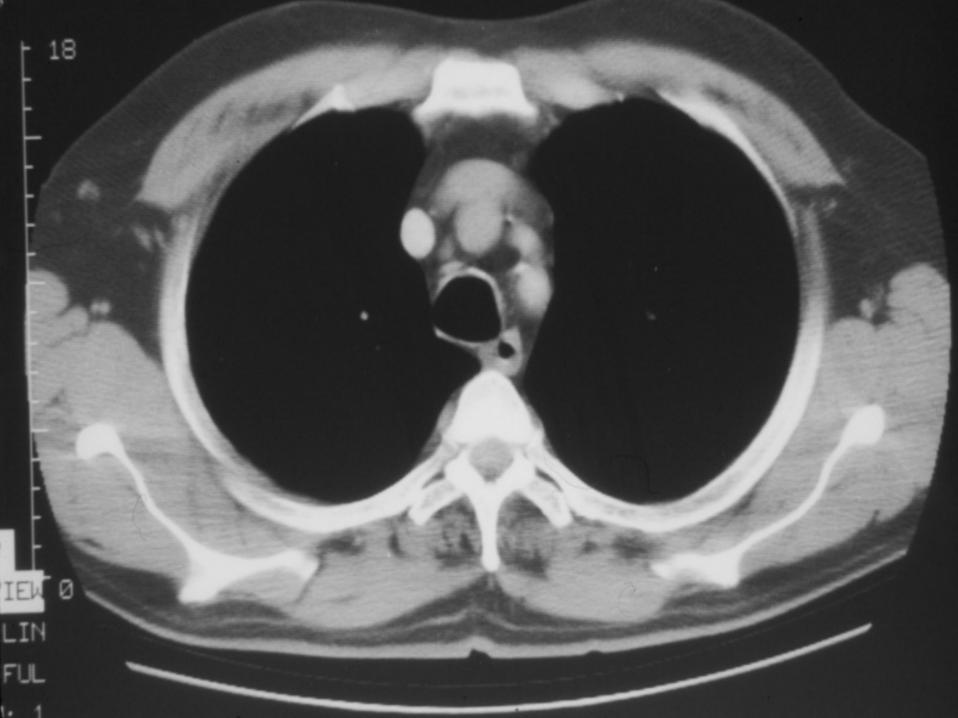
Mediastinum

- SVC
- Right paratracheal line



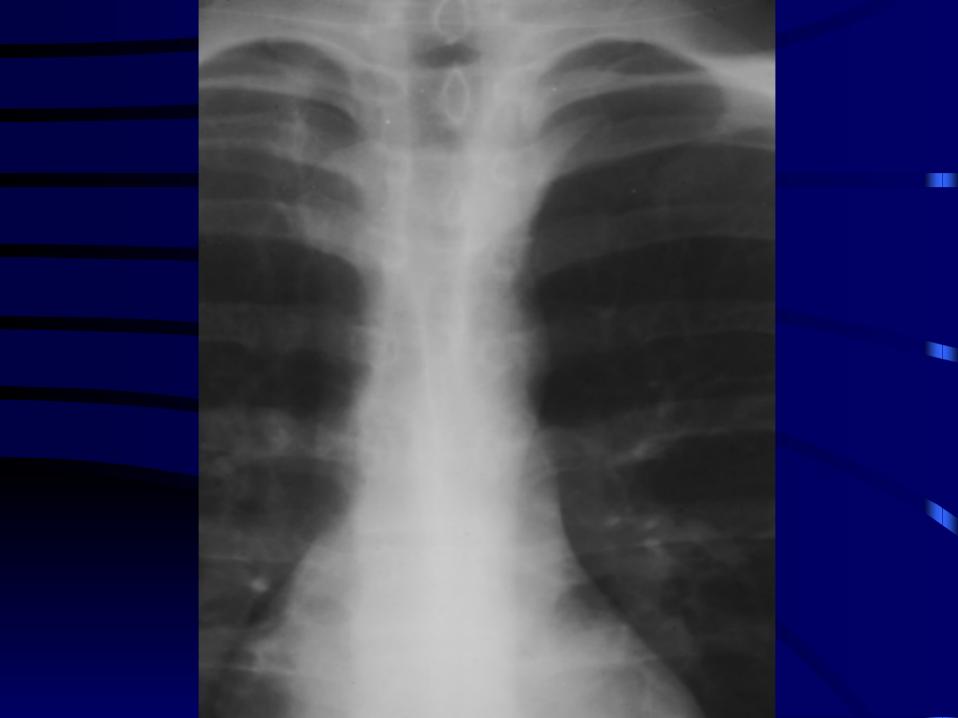


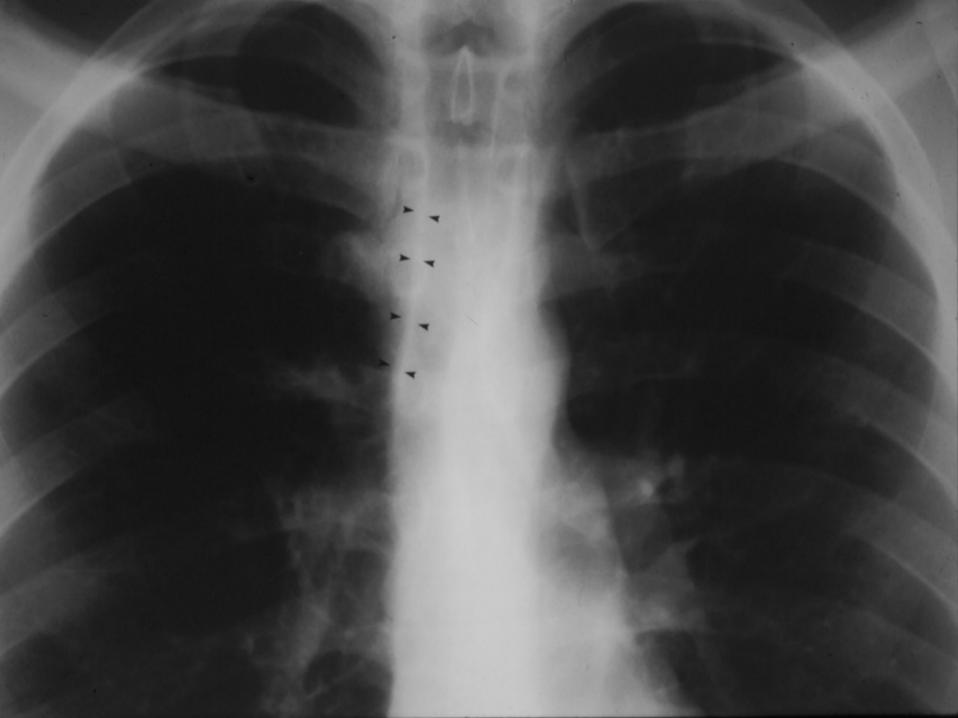


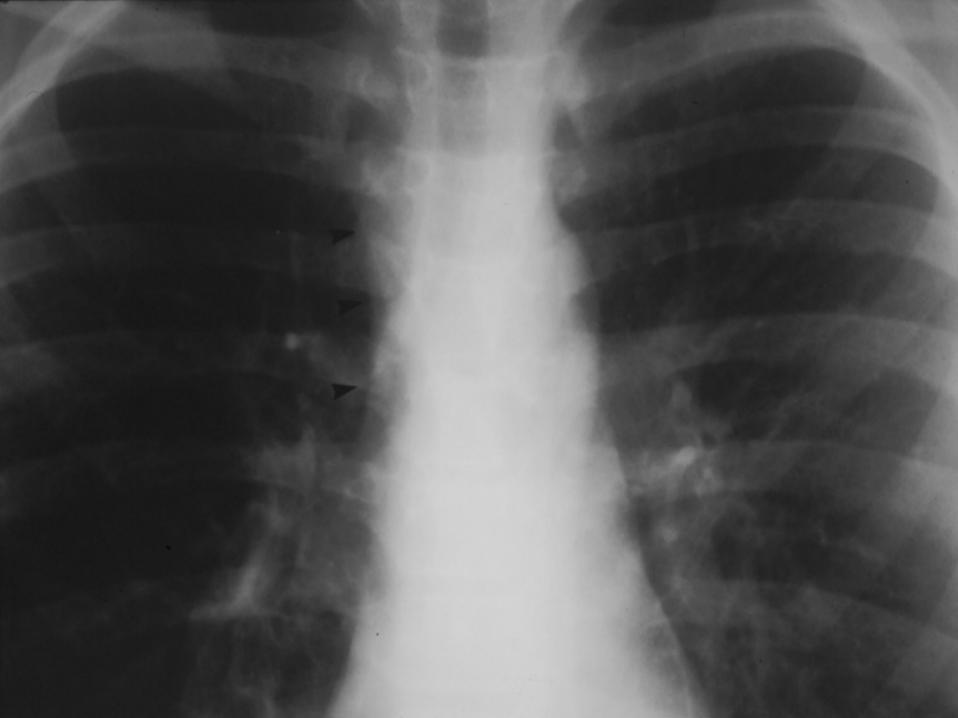


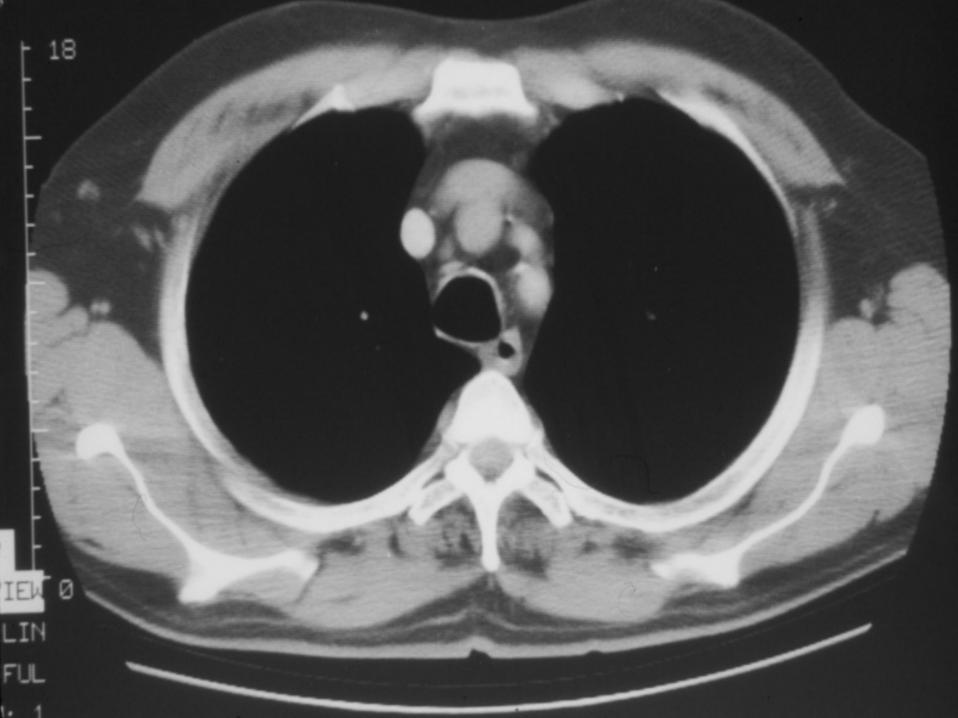








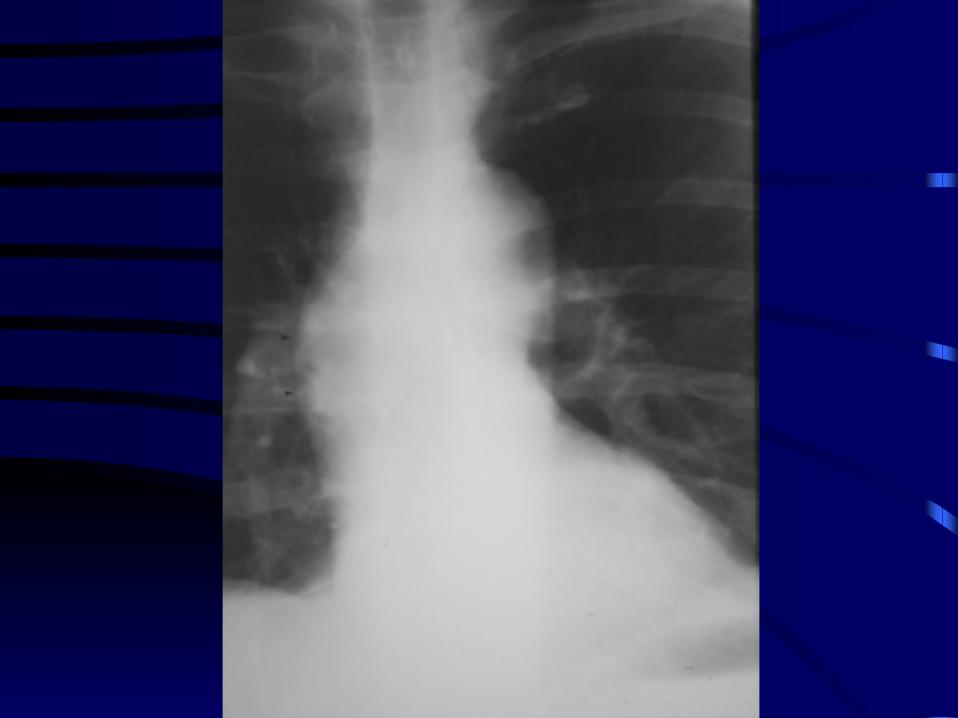


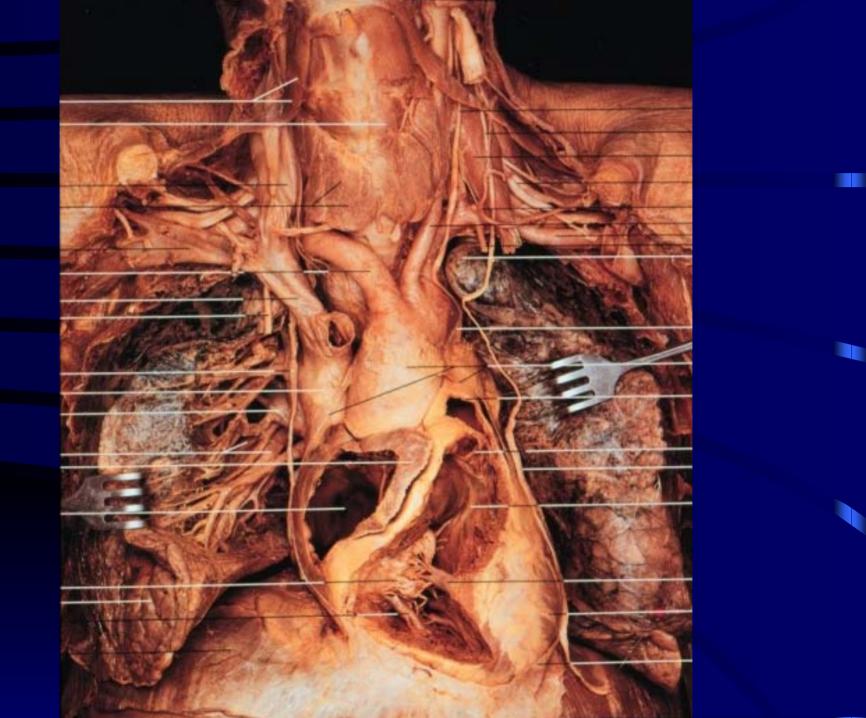


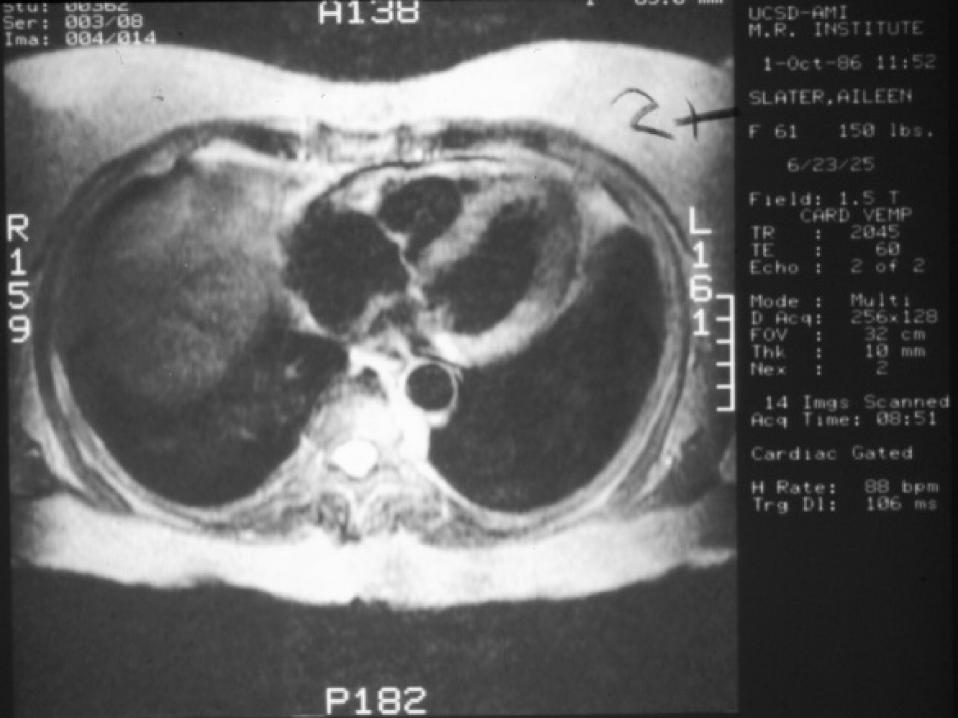
Mediastinum

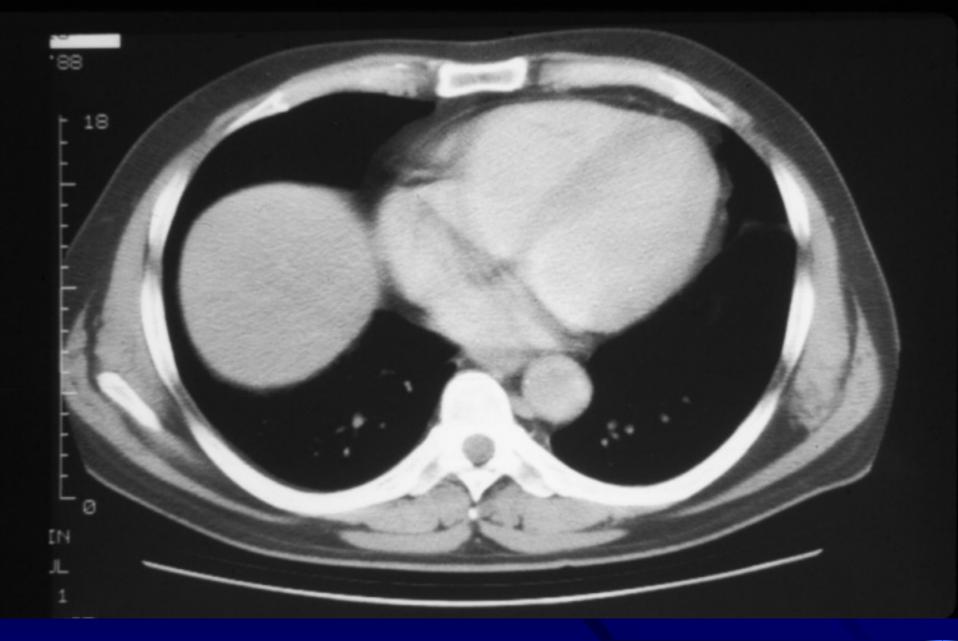
- Ascending aorta
- Right atrium

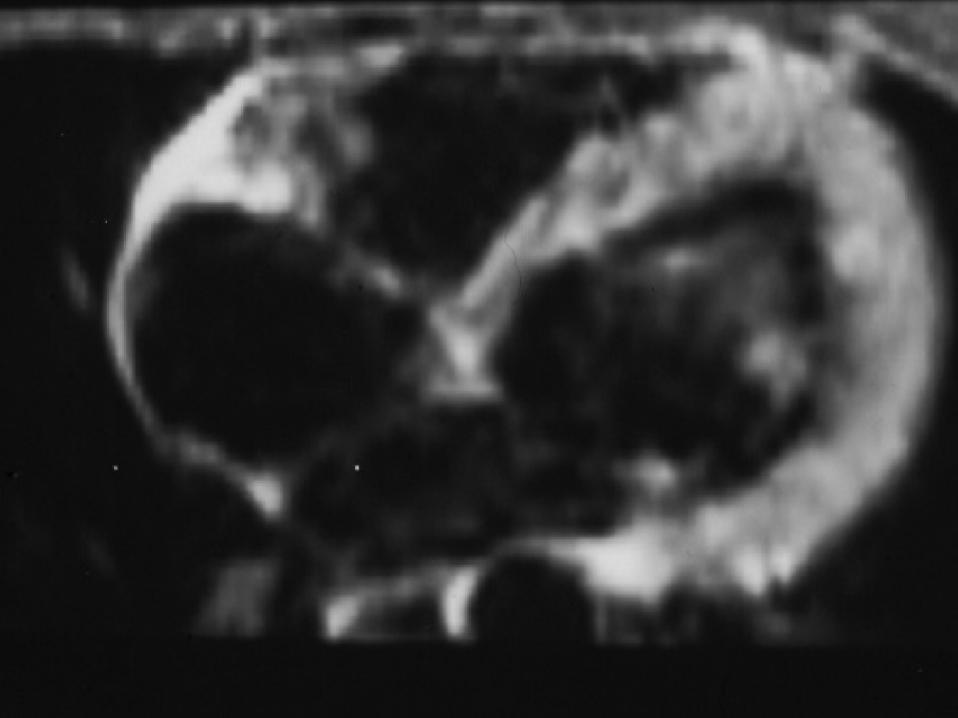


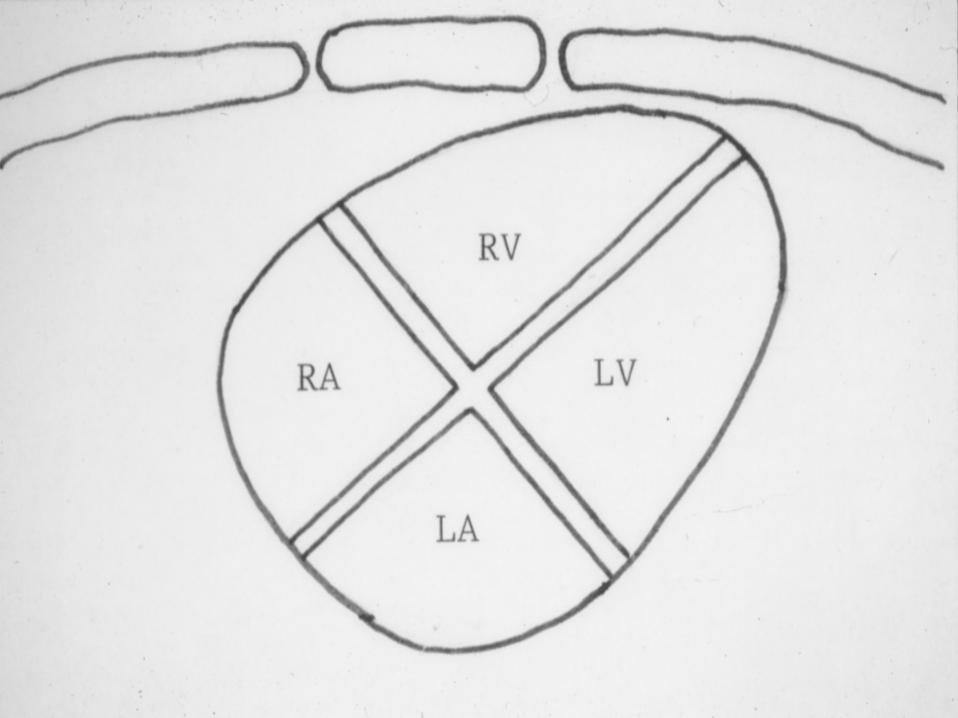


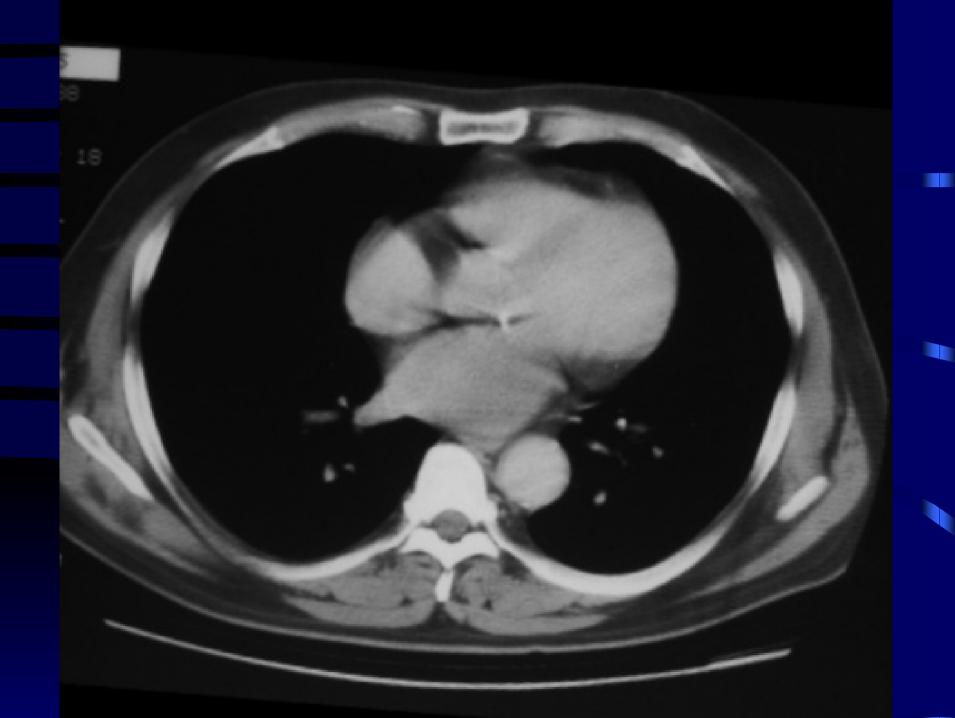


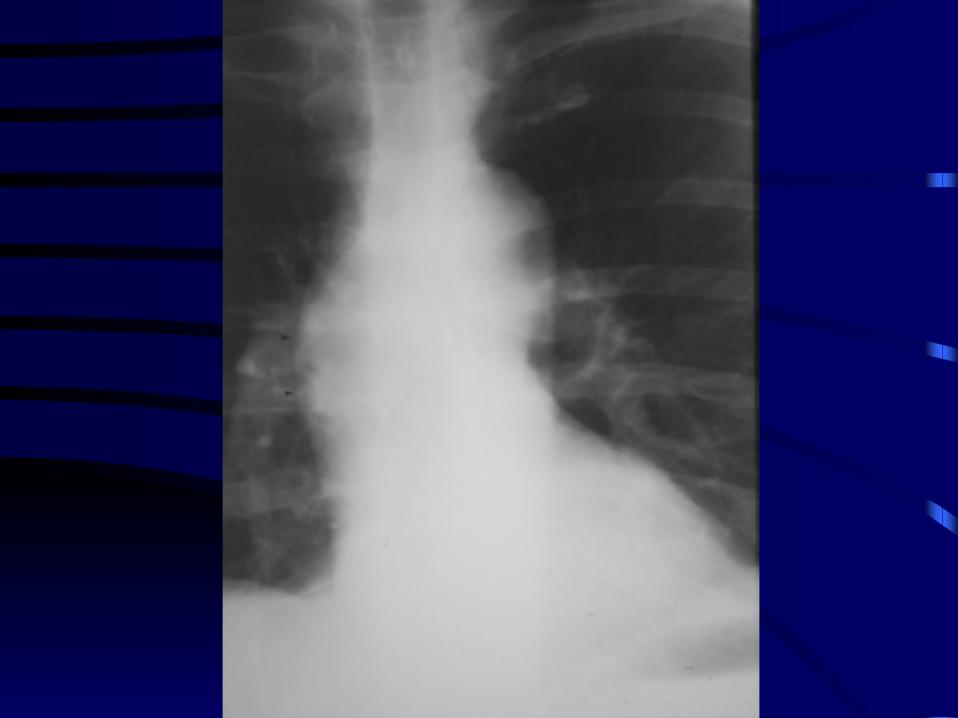










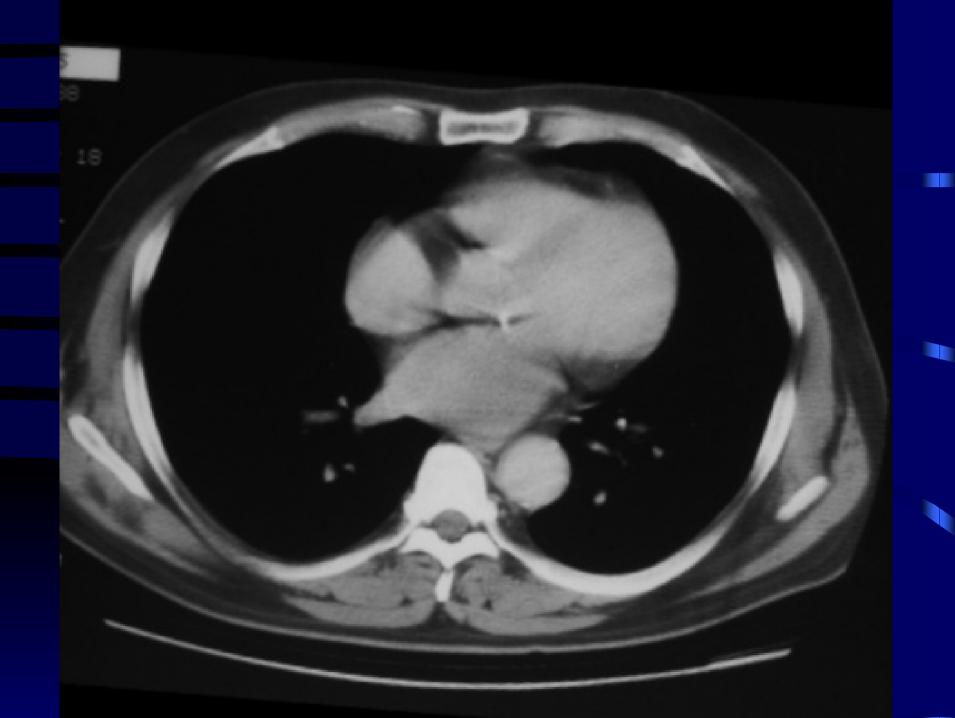


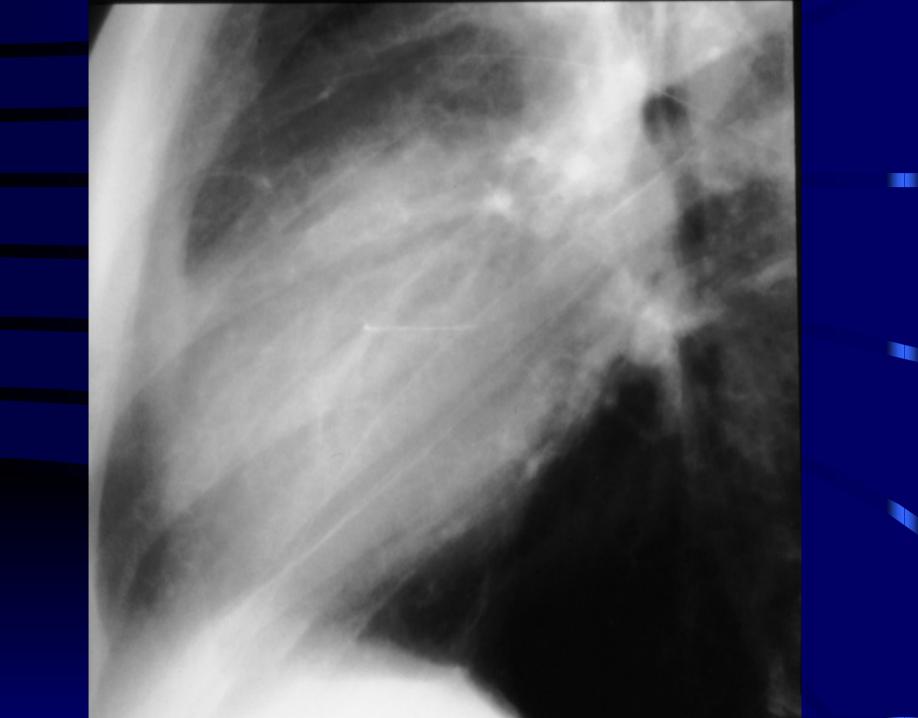


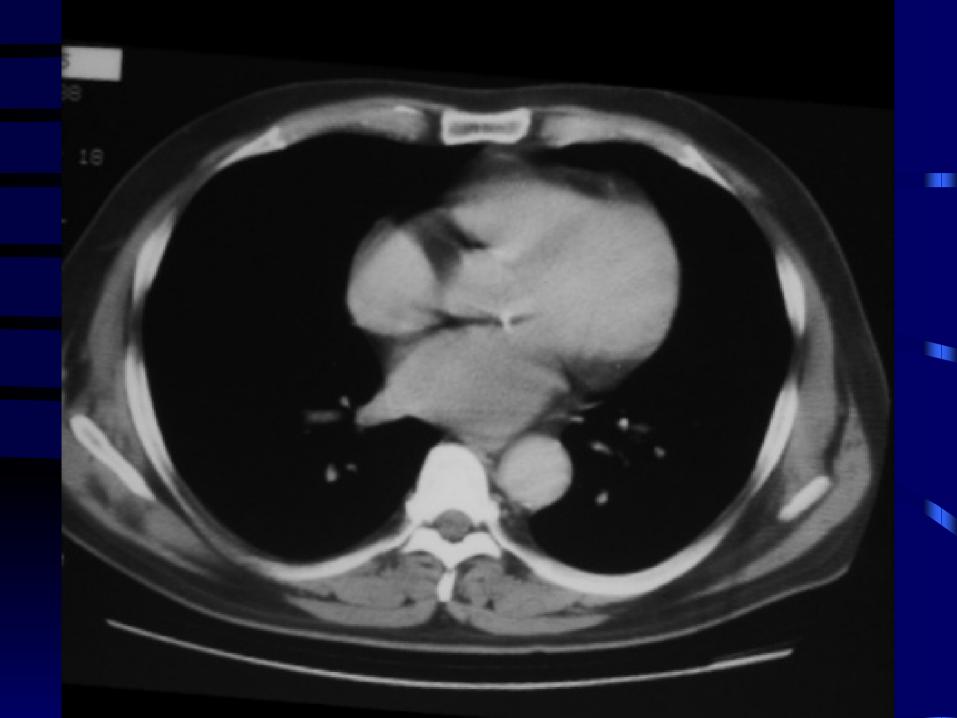
Mediastinum

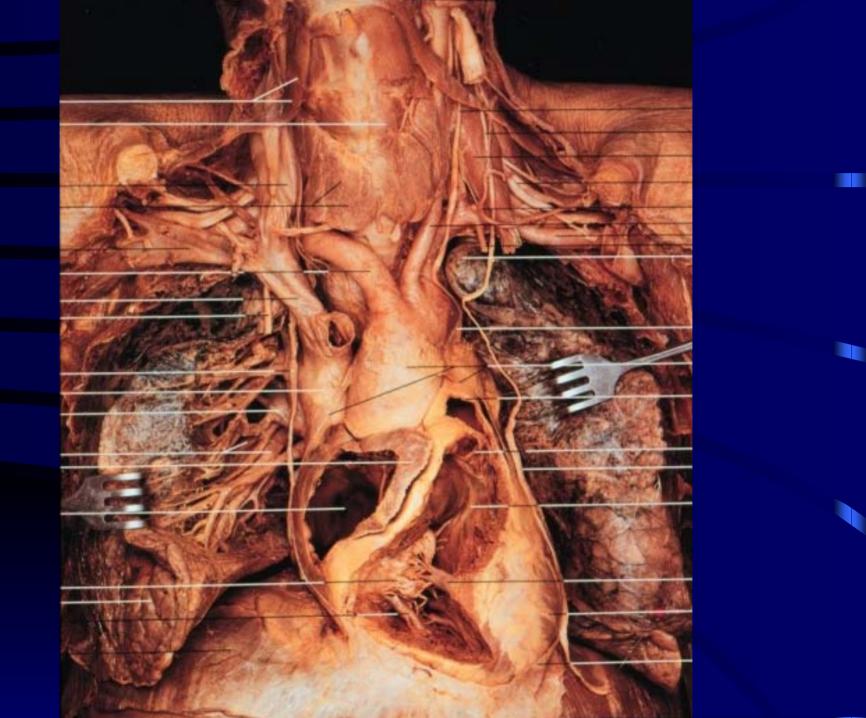
- Left ventricle
- Main pulmonary artery (Trunk)



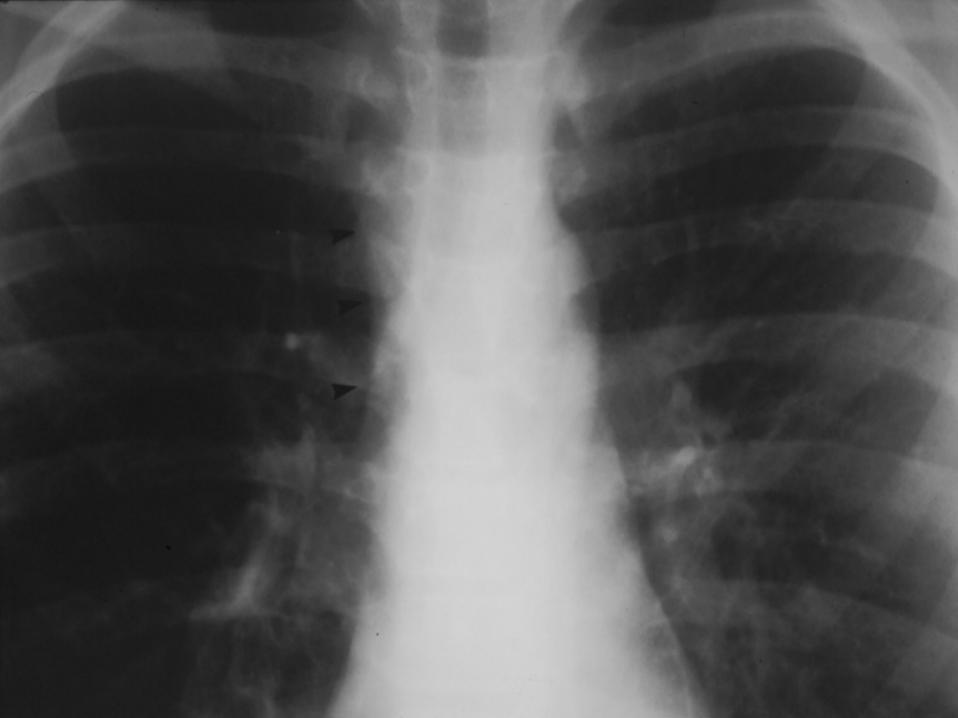


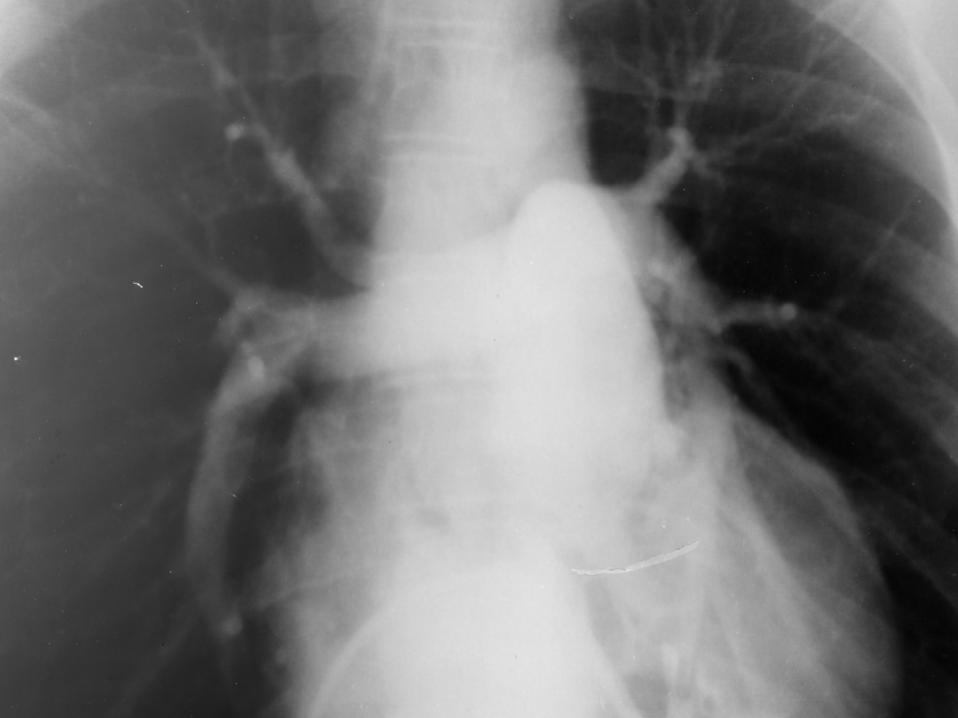






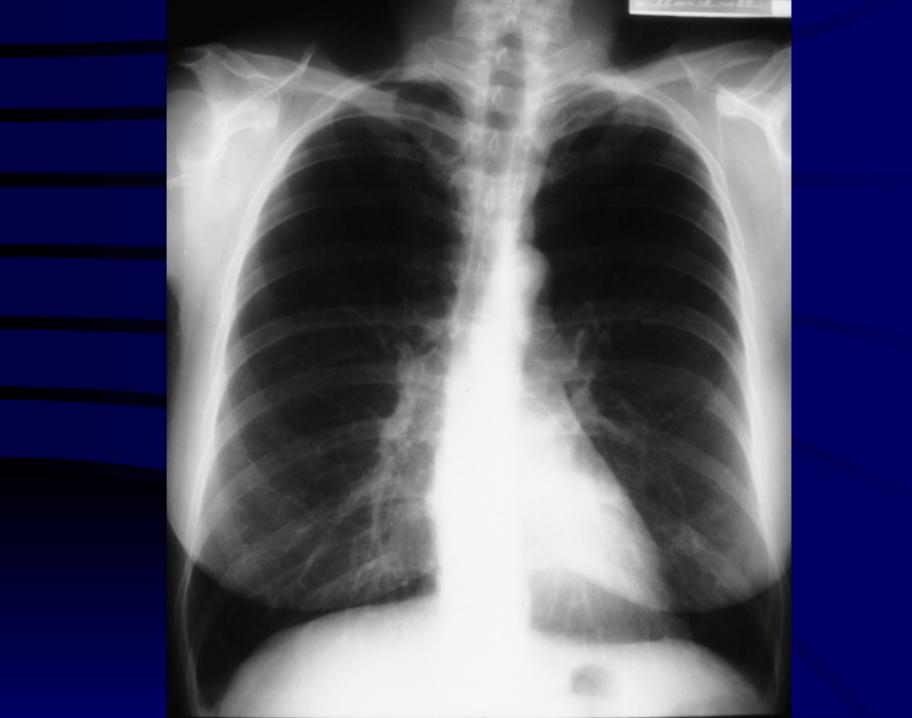


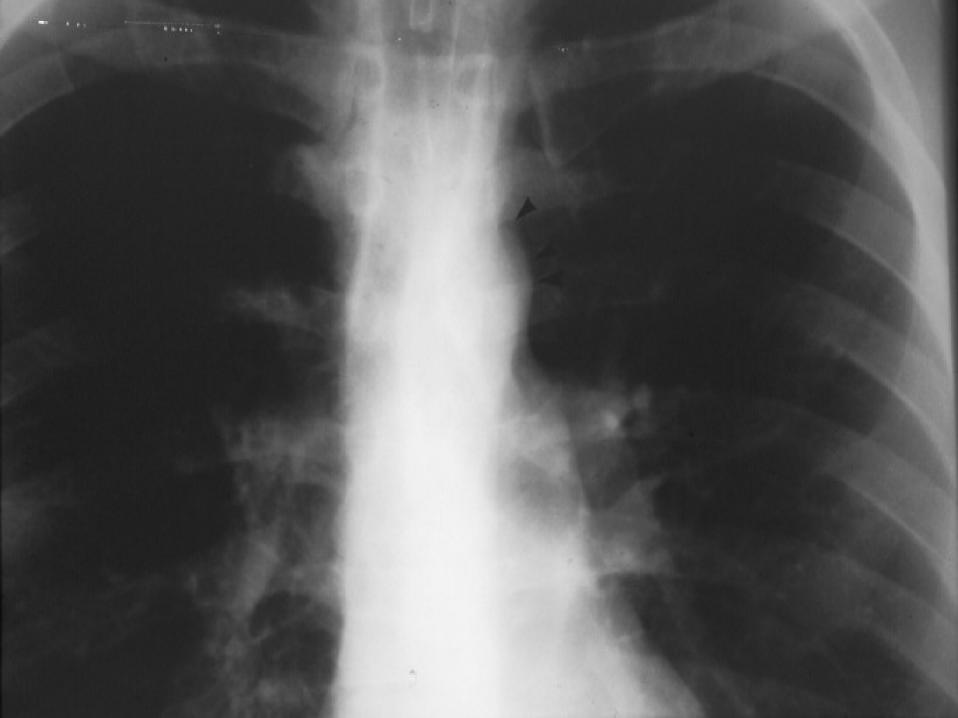


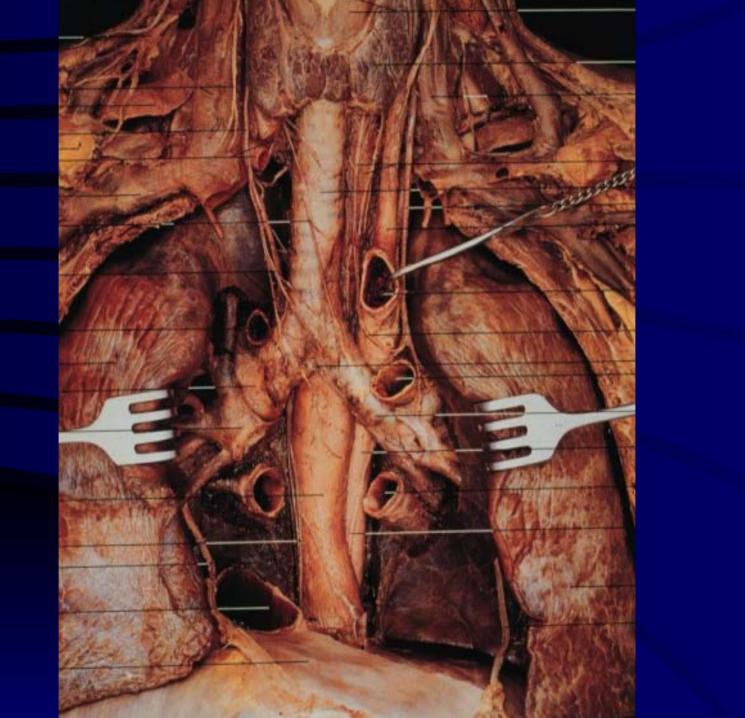


Mediastinum

- Aortico-Pulmonary Notch
- Aortic Knob
- Descending aorta

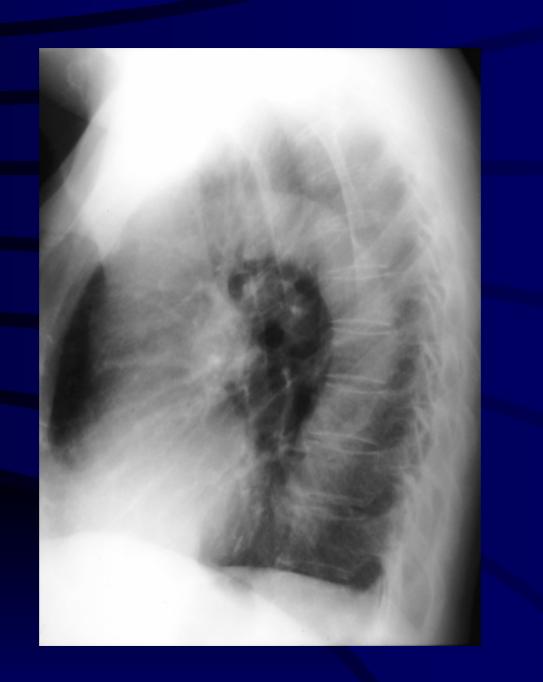


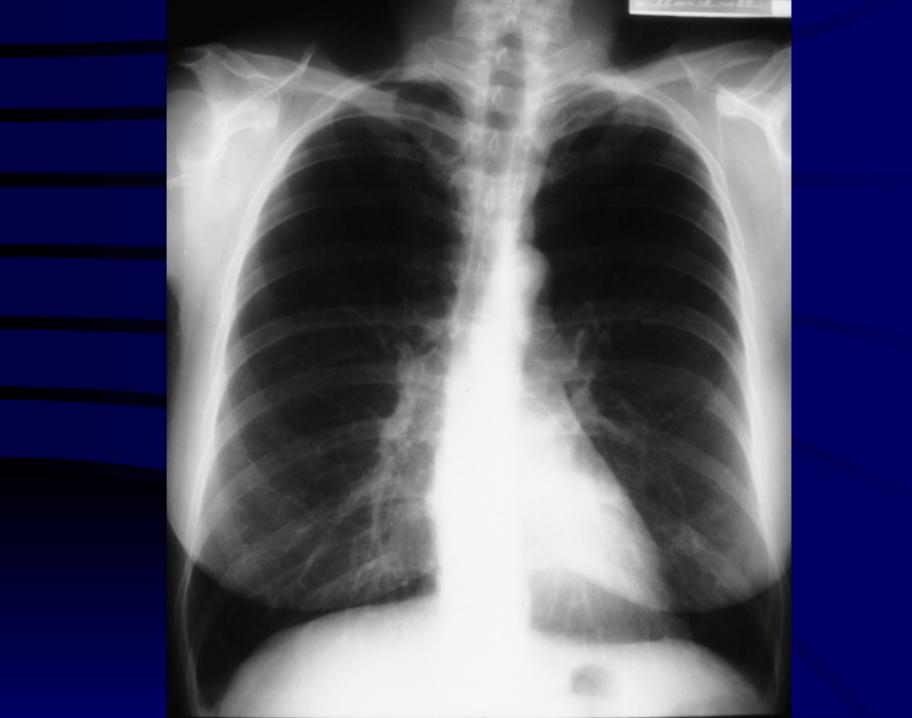




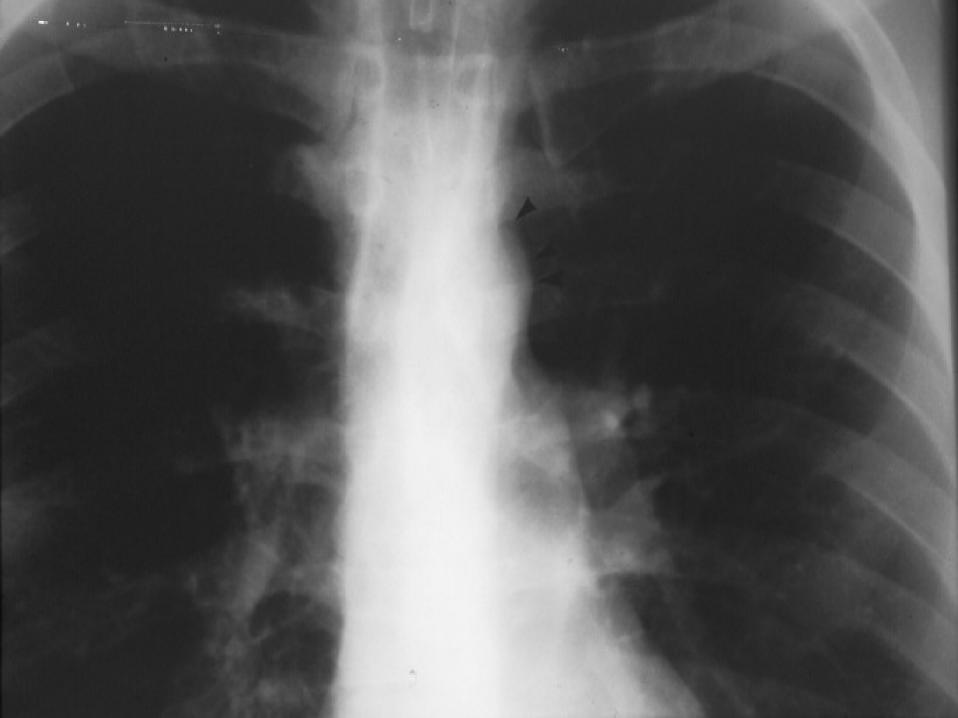


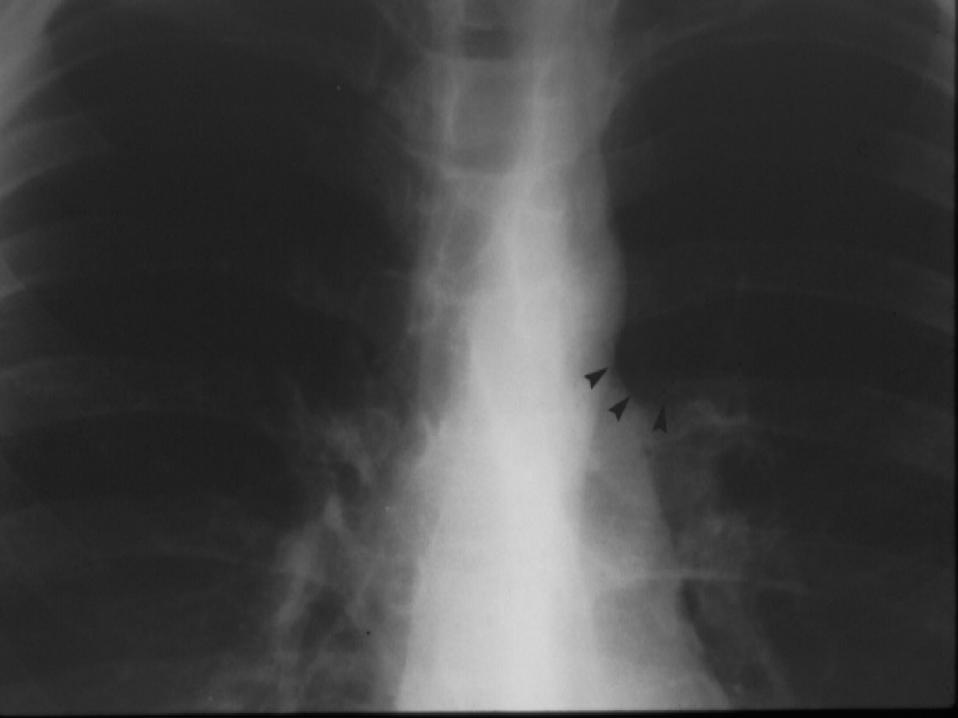






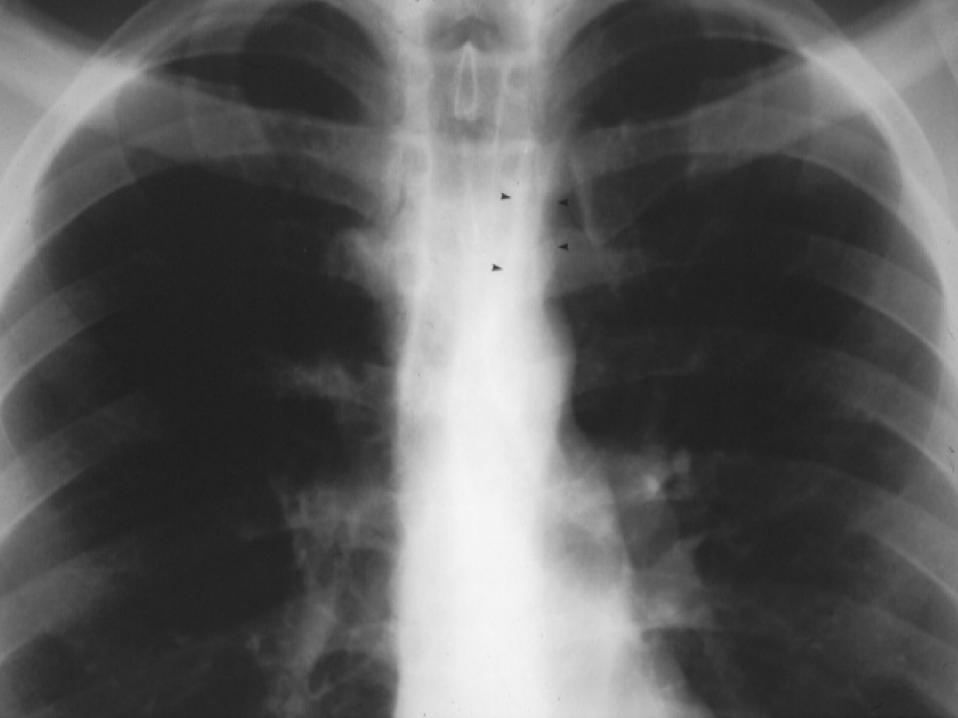


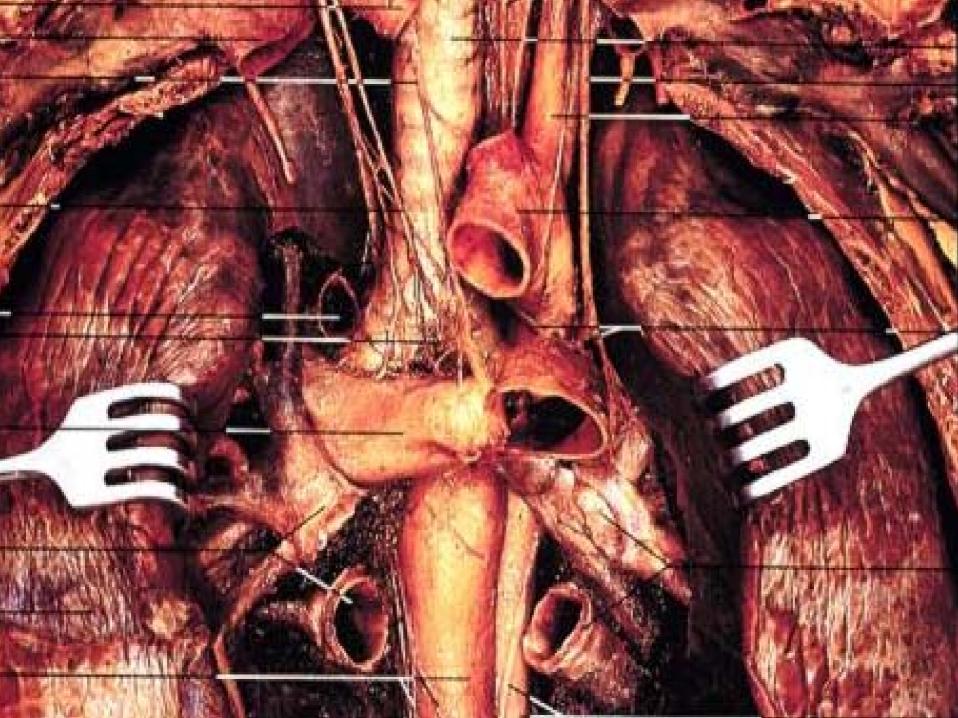


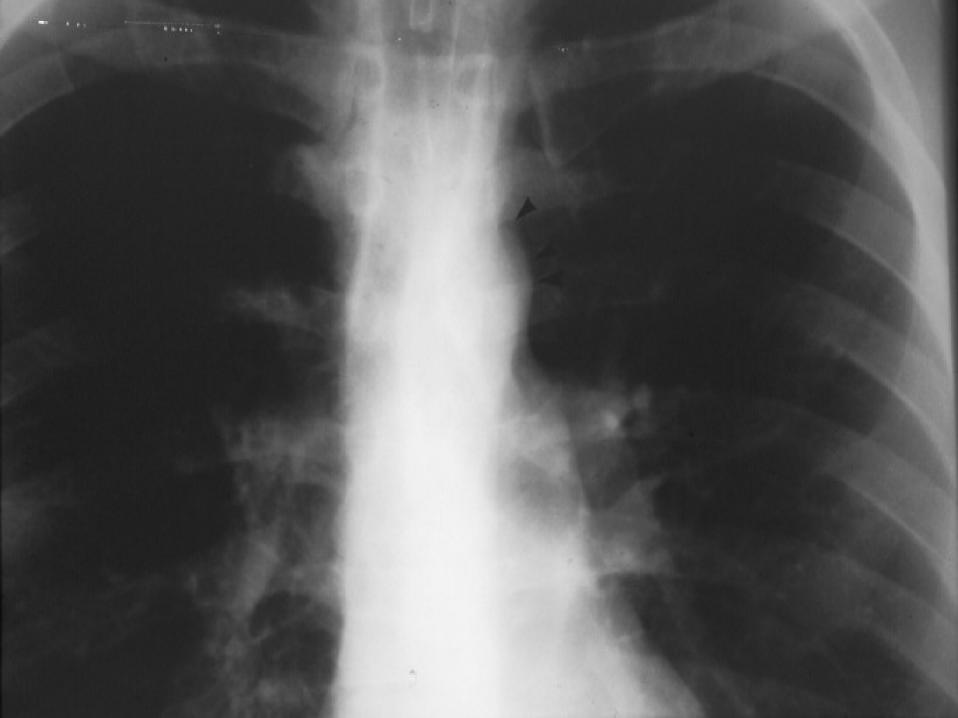


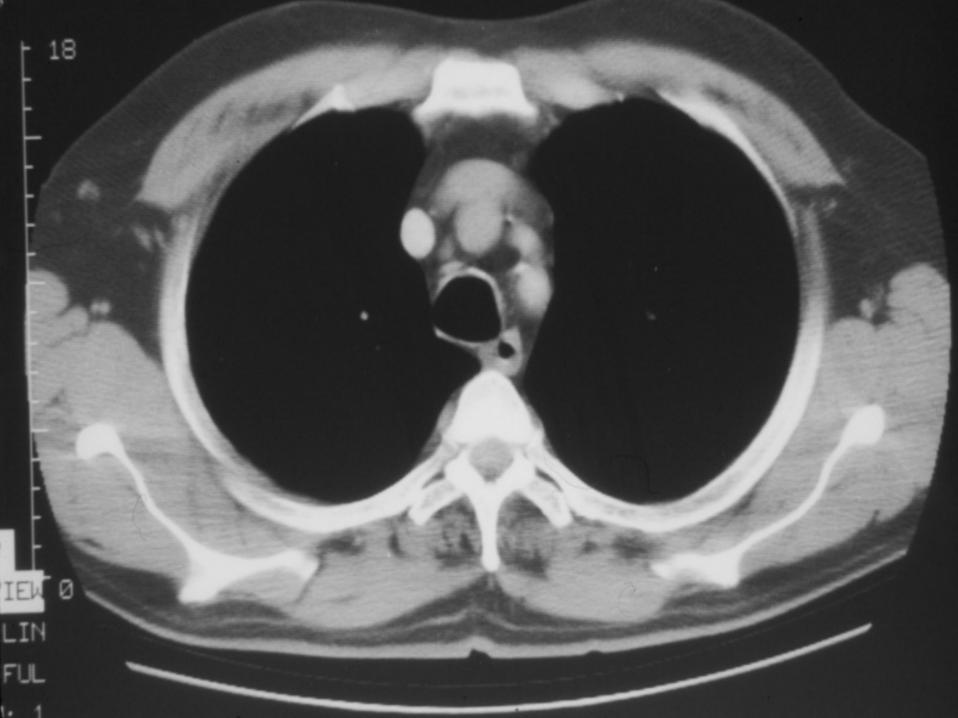
Mediastinum

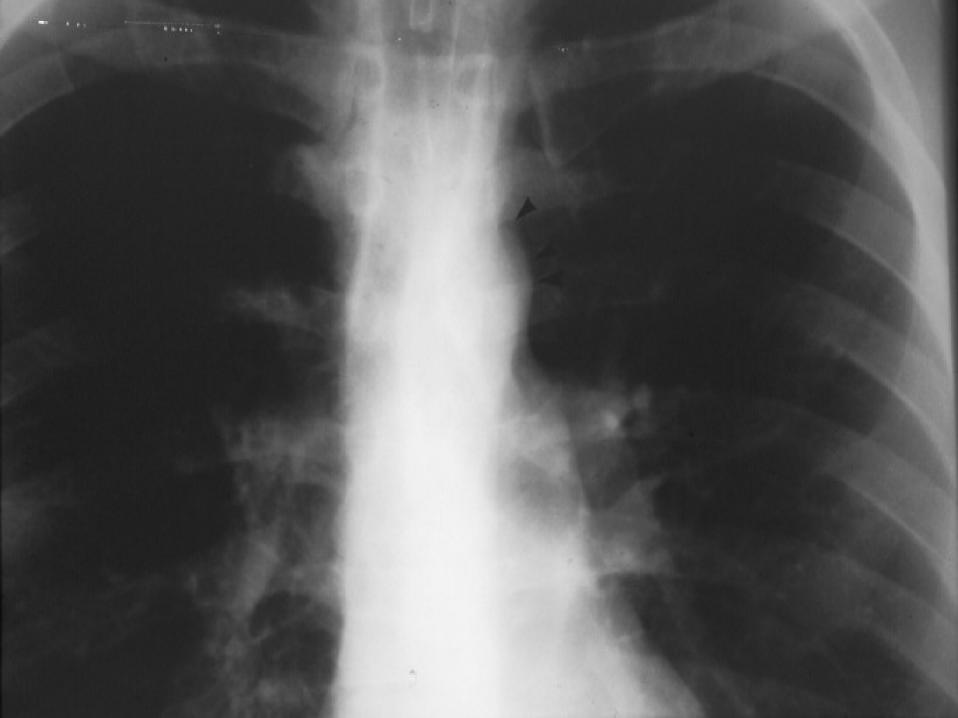
Left Paratracheal Edge

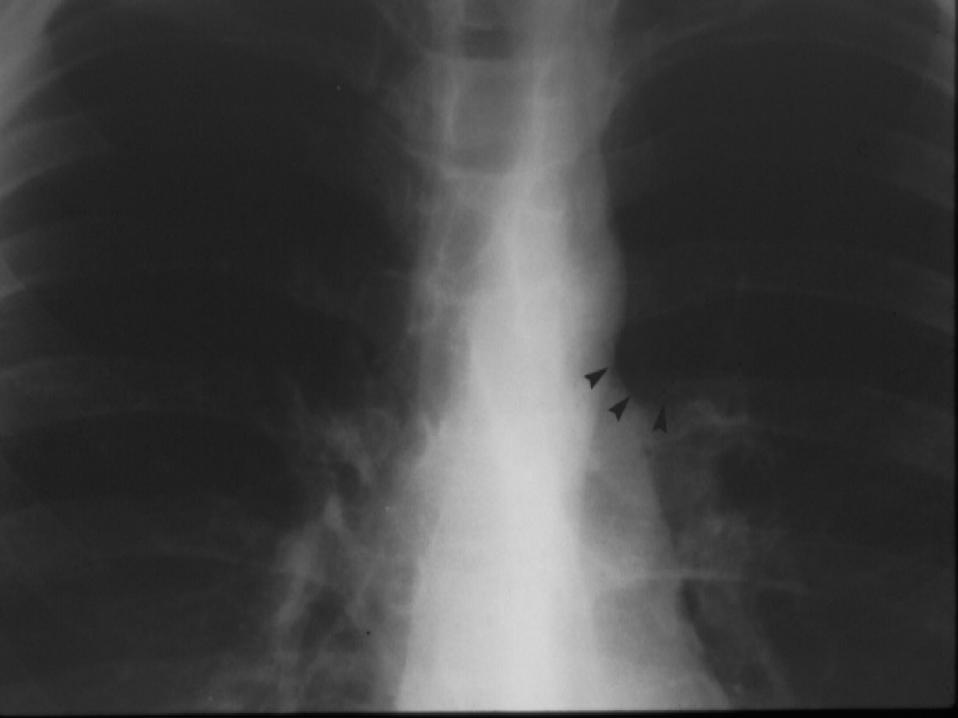












Airways

- Trachea
- Carina
- Main Bronchi



Hila

Left and Right Pulmonary Arteries



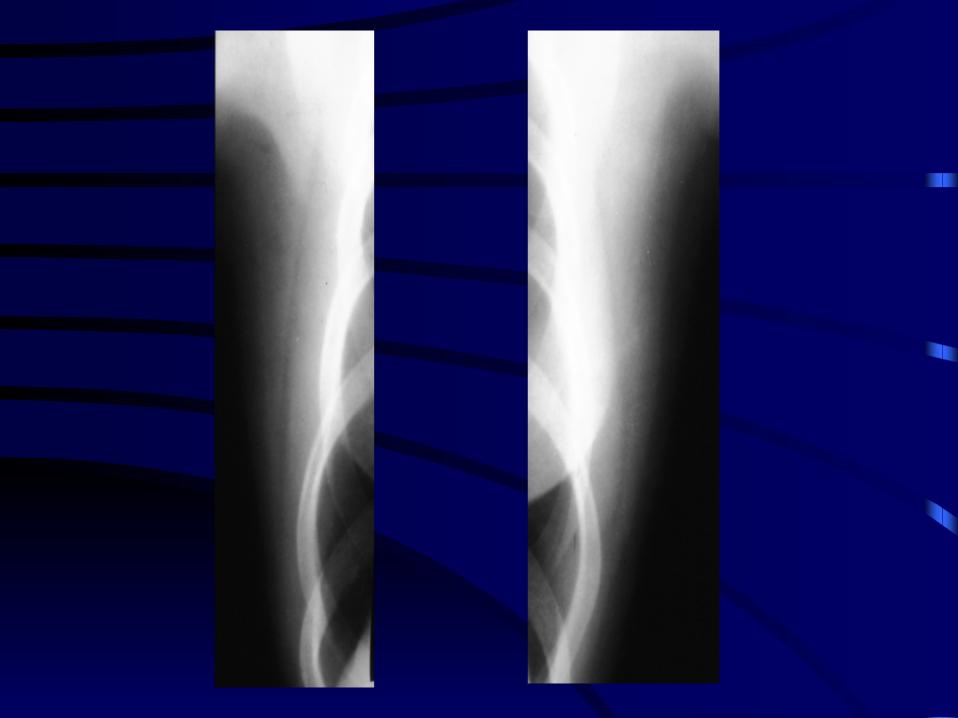


Soft Tissues

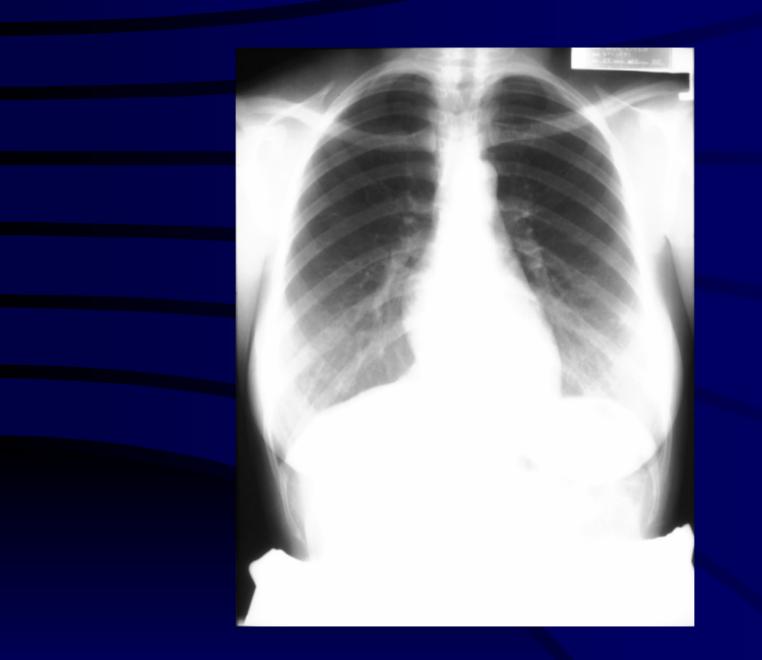
- Neck
- Chest walls
- Breast Shadows
- Diaphragms
- Bowel Gas



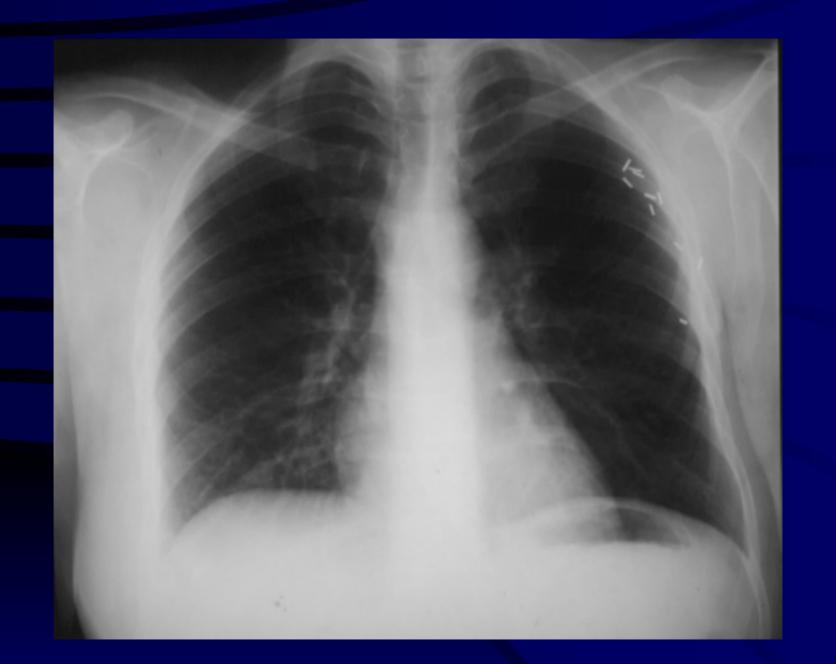


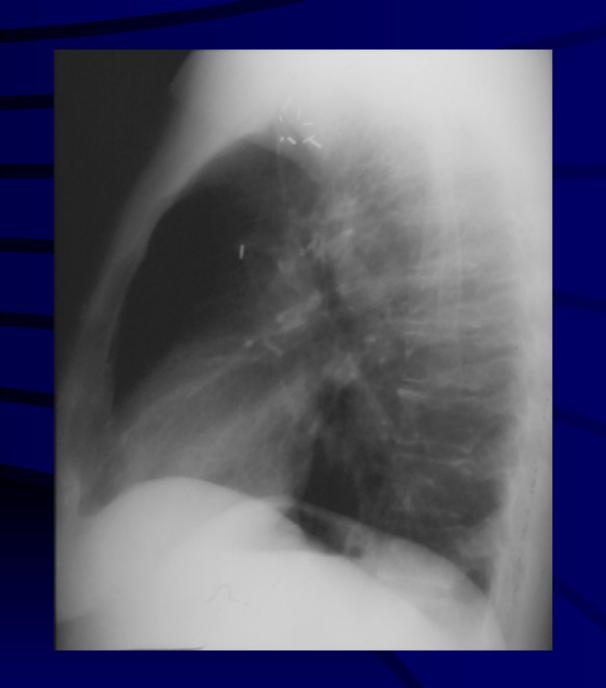










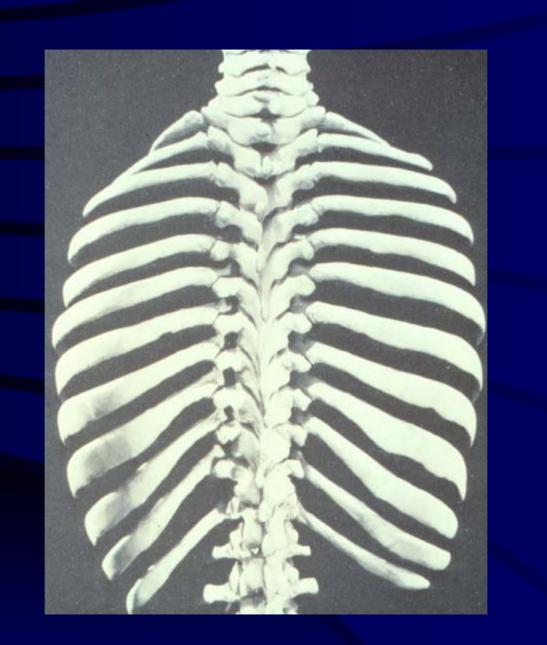


Bones

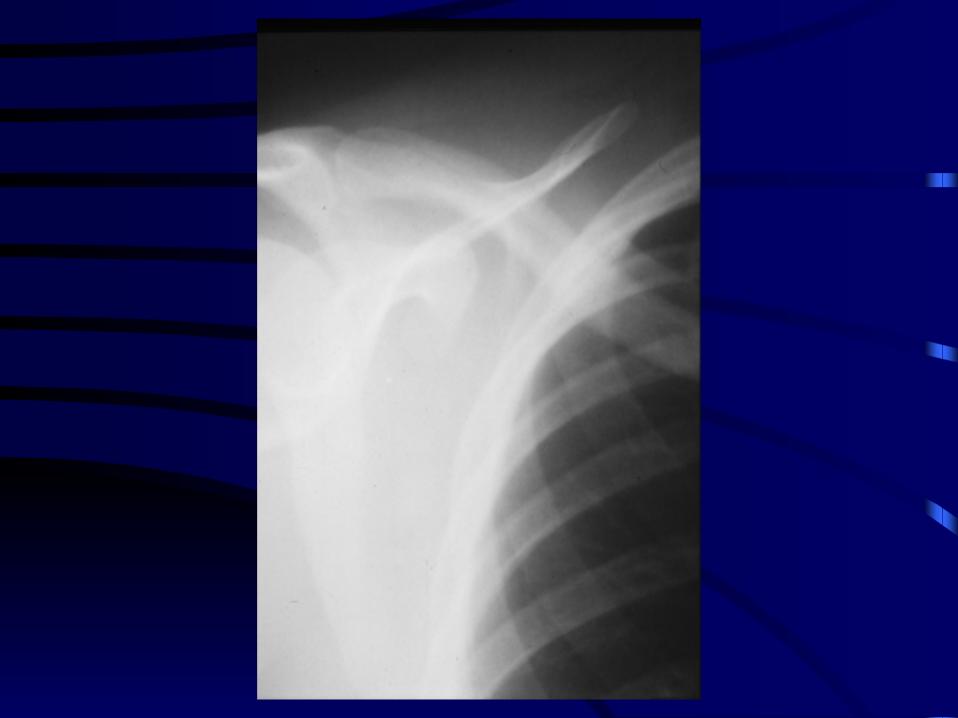
- Ribs (Anterior and Posterior)
- Clavicles
- Scapulae
- Humeri
- Spine
 - Bodies and Disc Spaces
 - Spinous processes
 - Pedicles



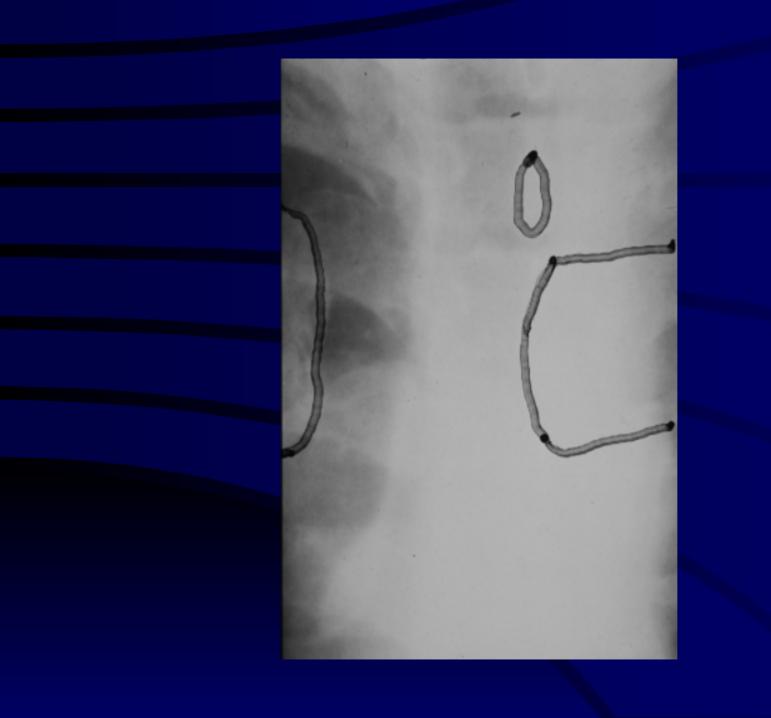




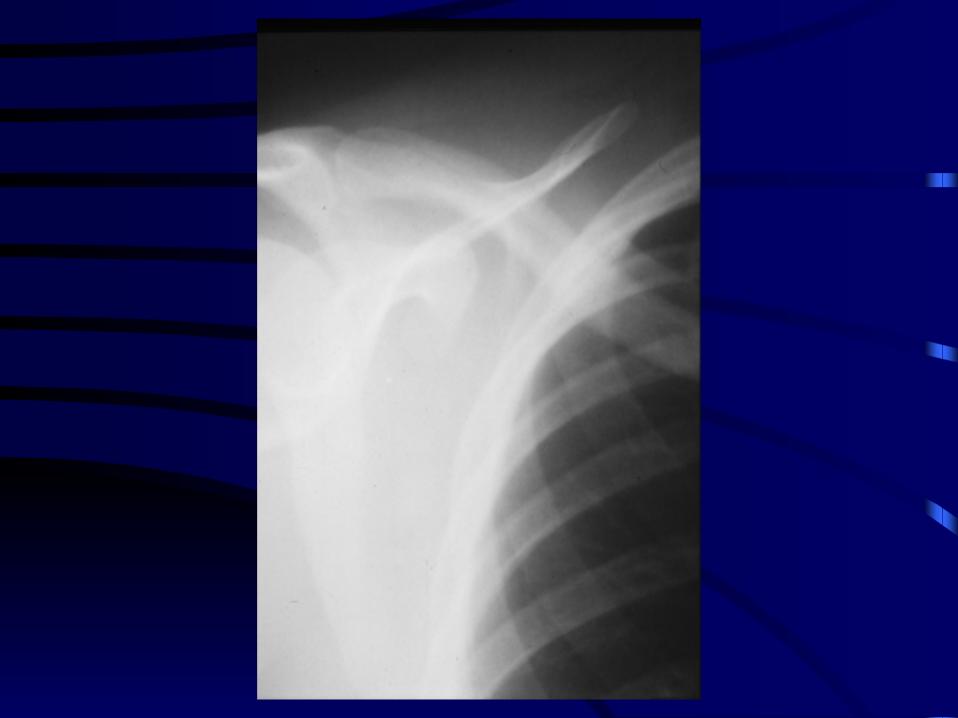
LEFT-9 EXTERNAL





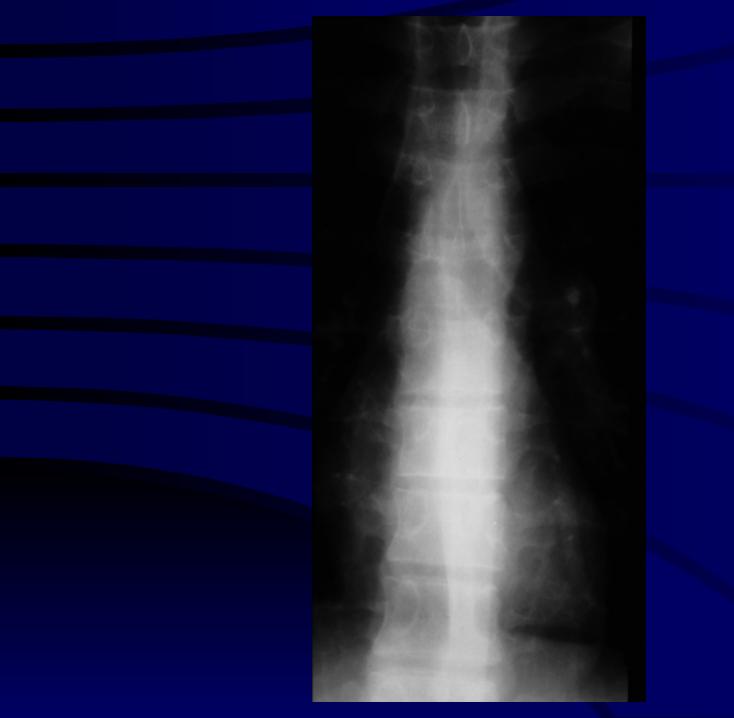


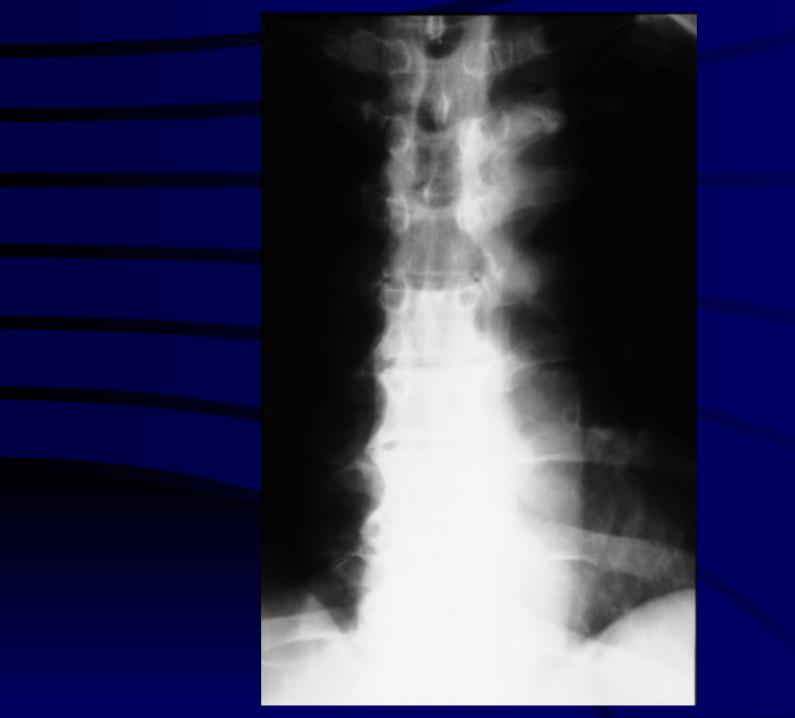




LEFT-9 EXTERNAL





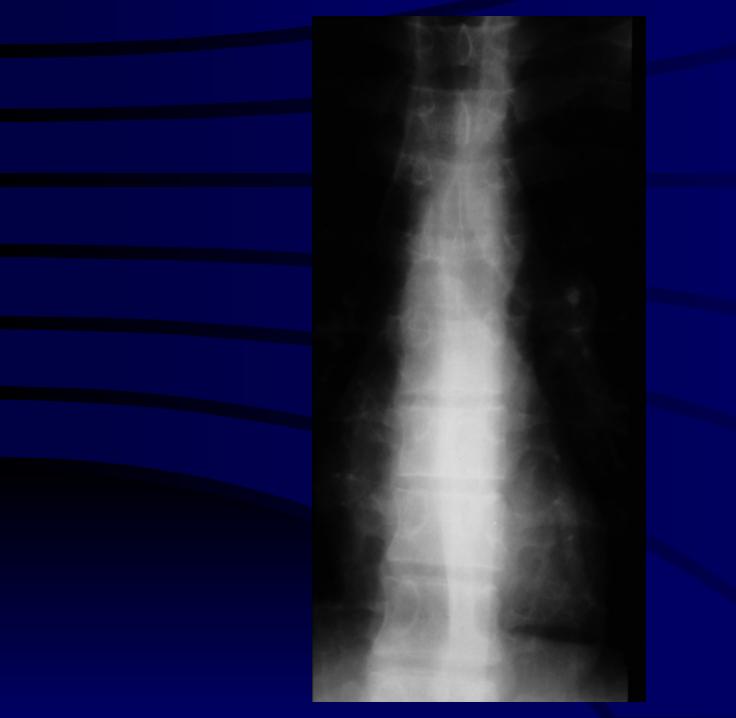


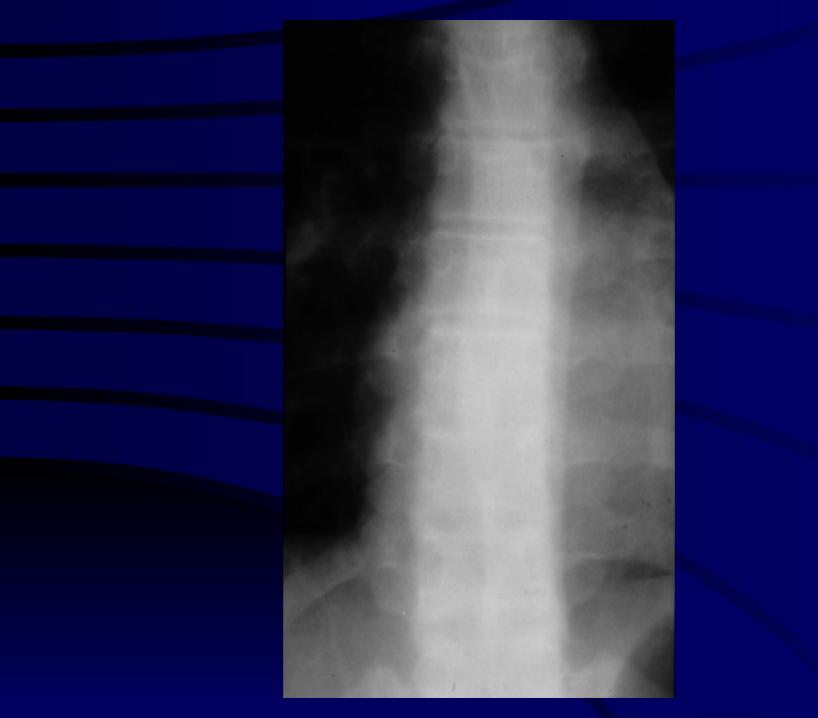


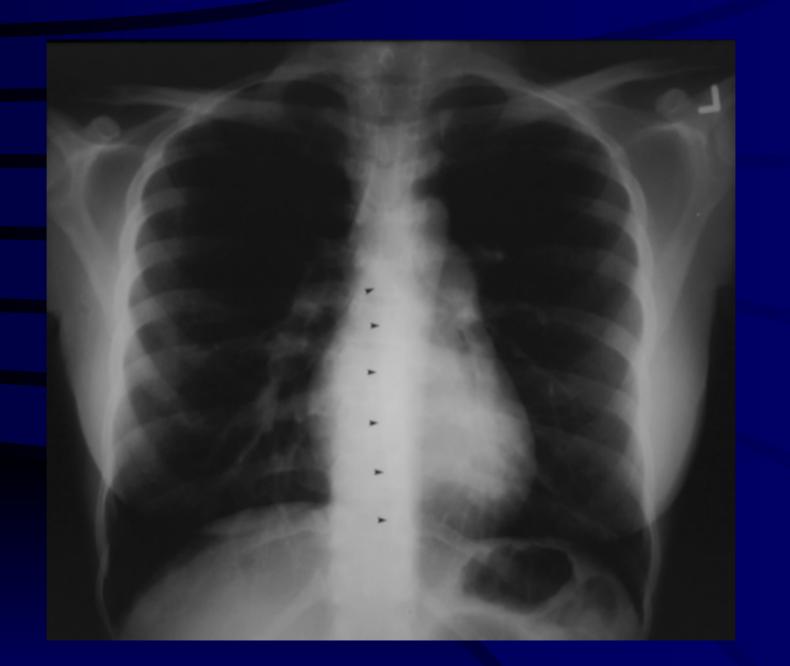


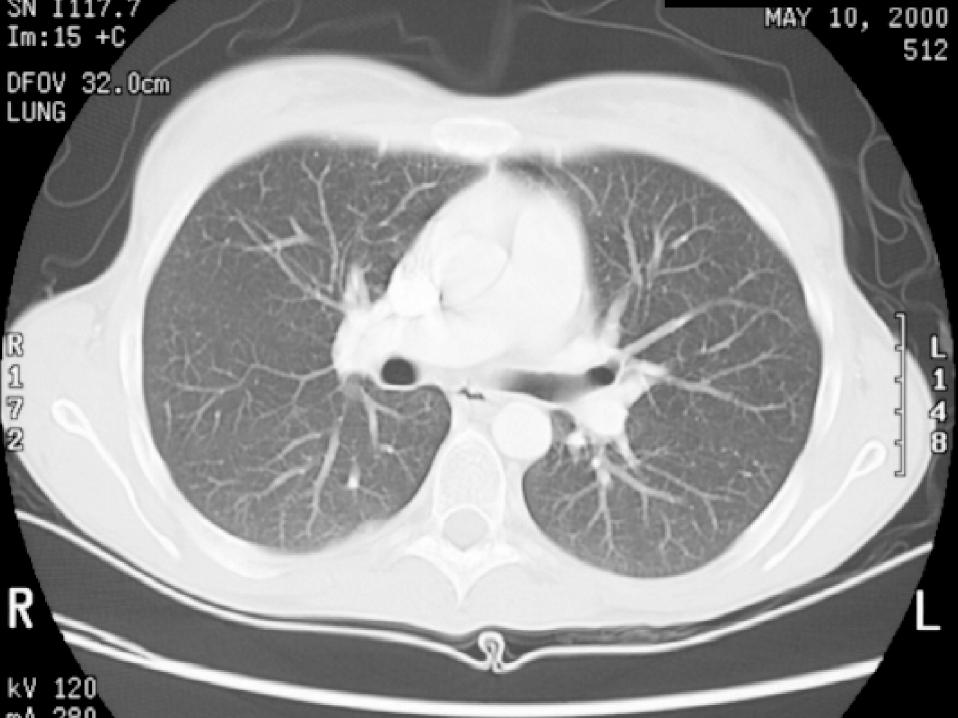
Optional Structure

- Azygo-esophageal edge
 - indentation of right lower lobe
 - between heart and spine
 - nearest mediastinal structures are azygous vein and esophagus

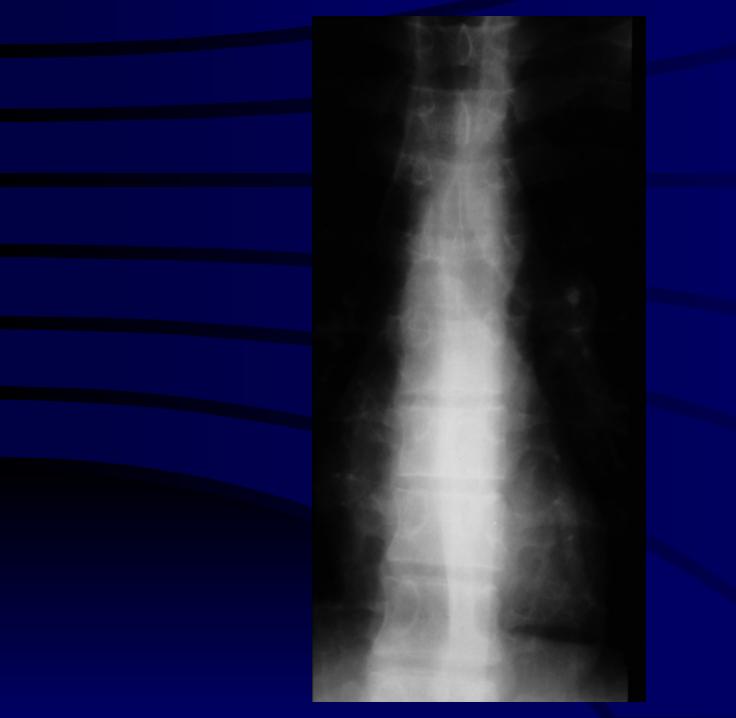


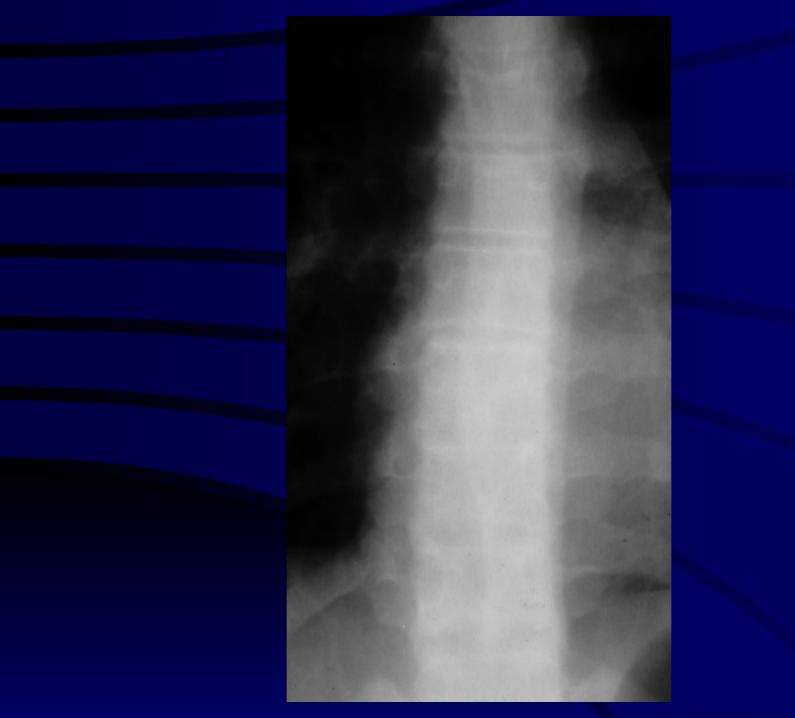






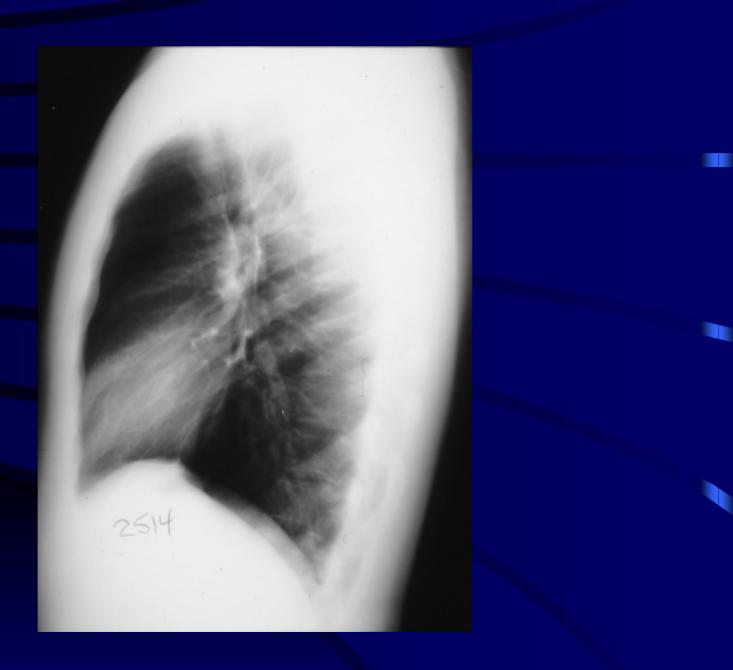


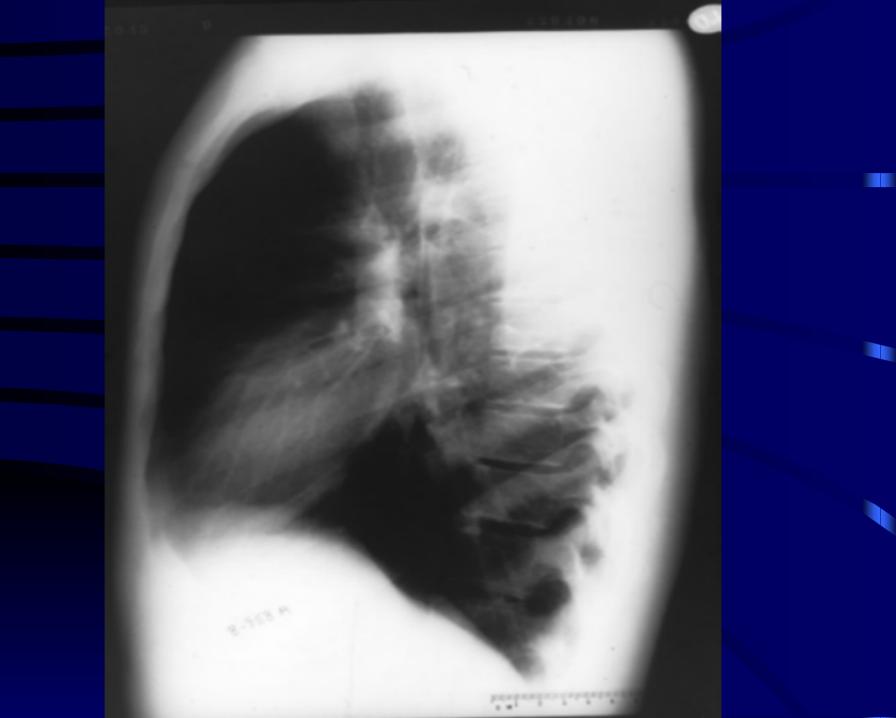




Lateral Airways

- Trachea and Main Bronchi
- Left bronchus on end





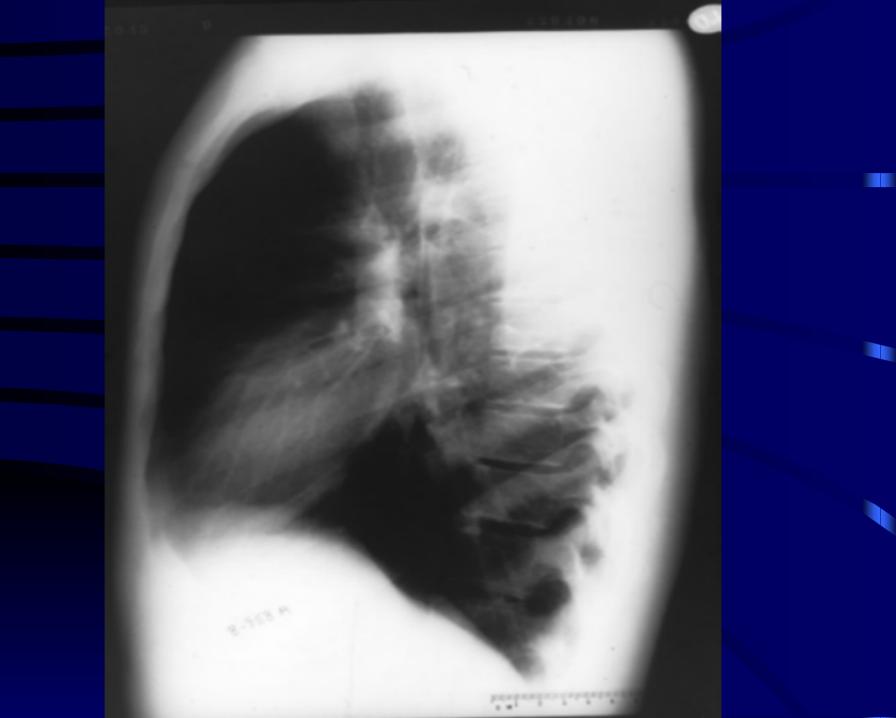






Lateral Hila

Left and Right Pulmonary Arteries



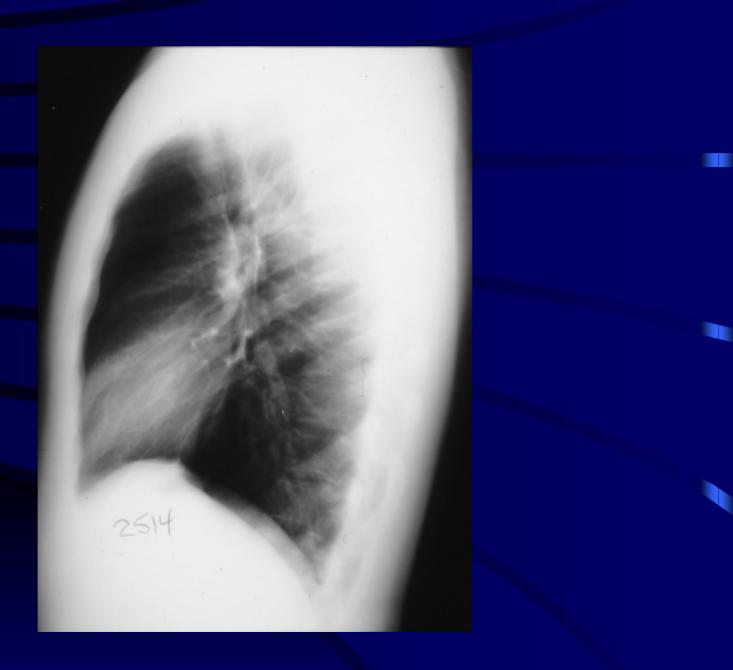




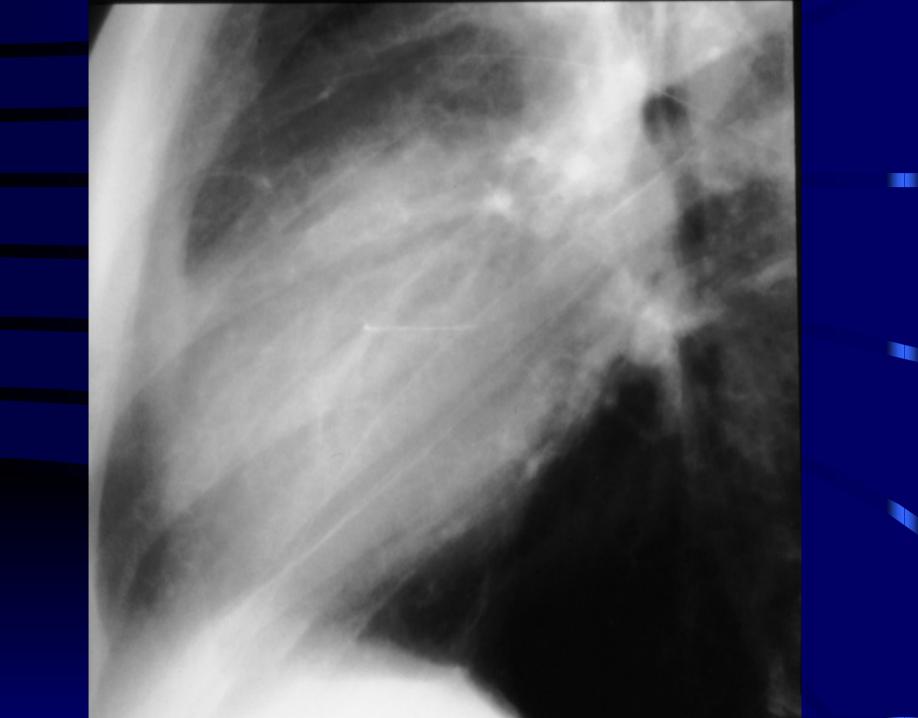


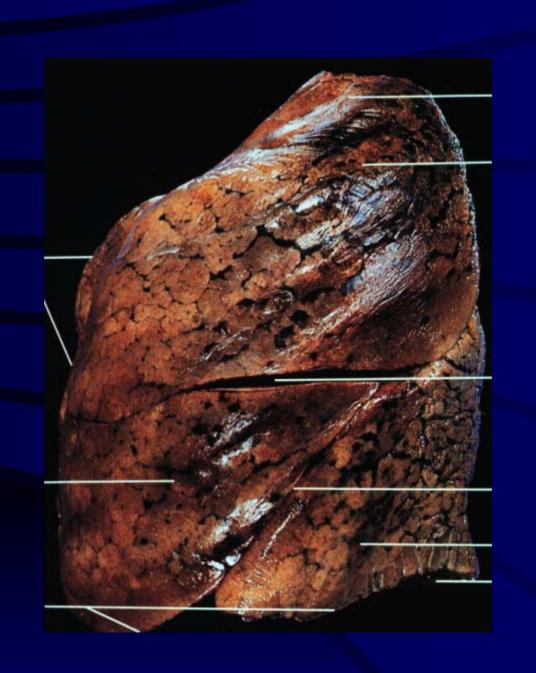
Lateral Lungs

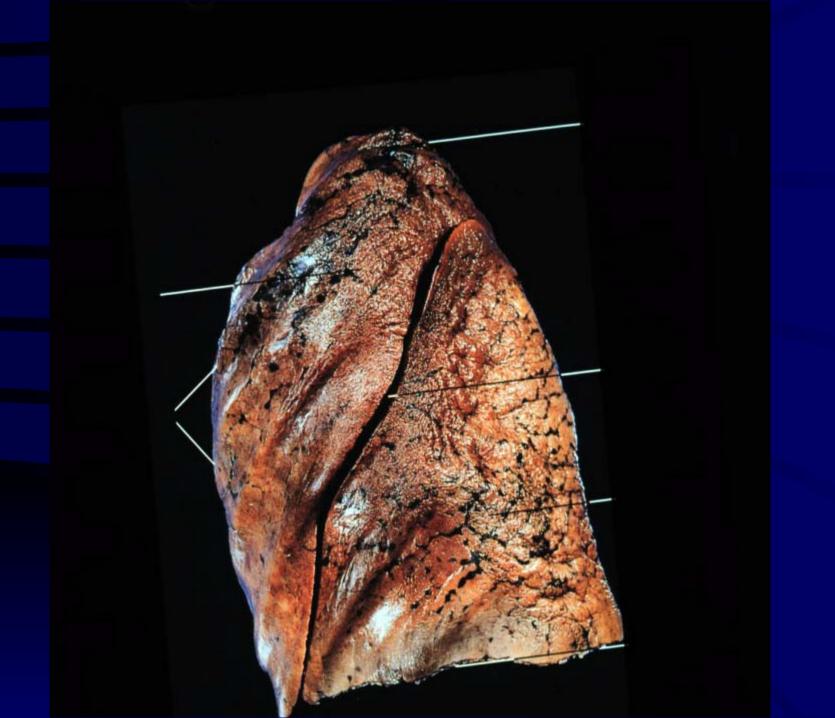
- Markings
- Fissures Major, Minor







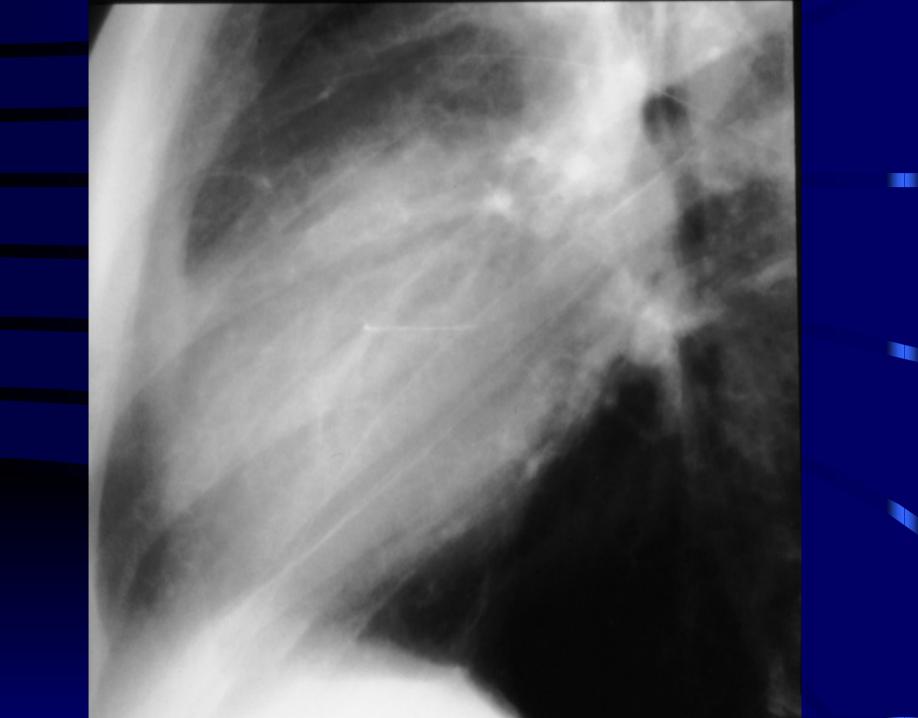


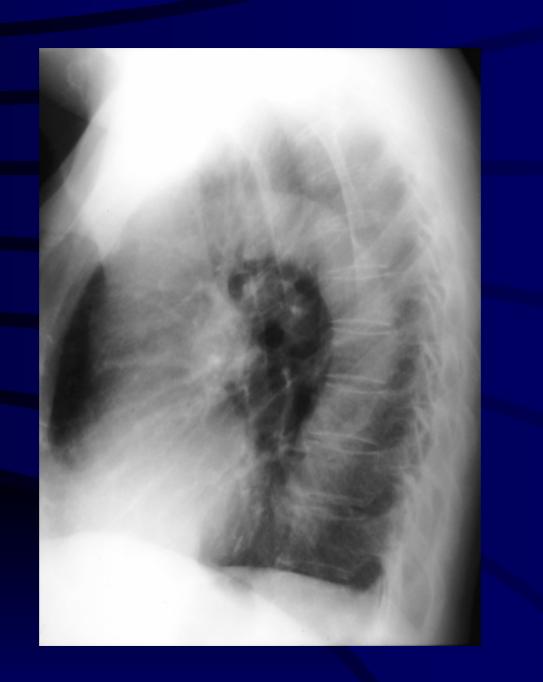


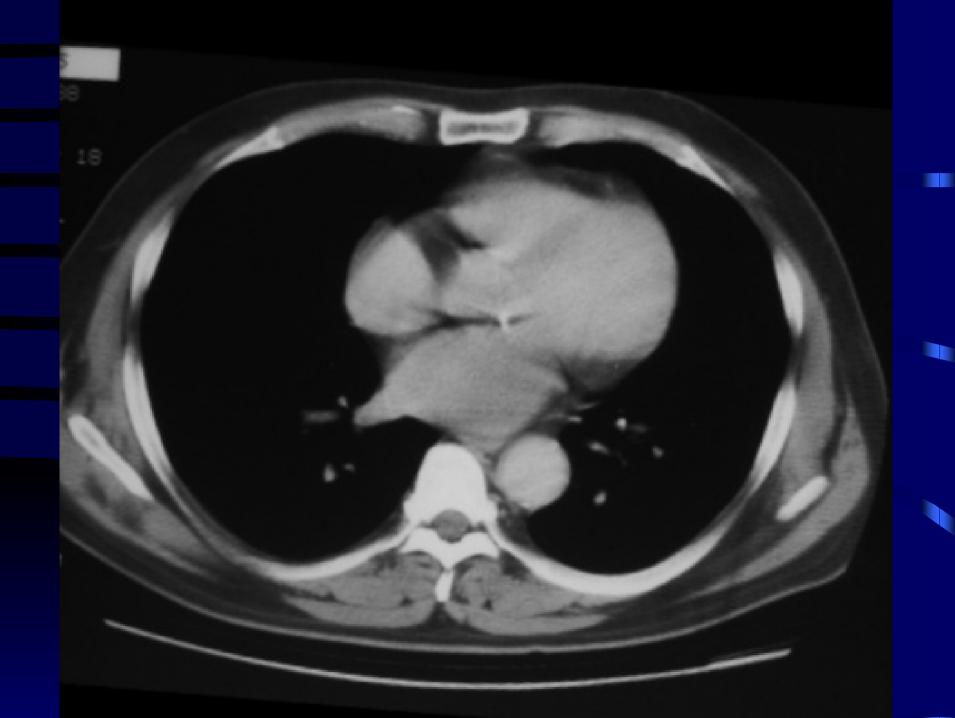
Lateral Heart

Left Ventricle



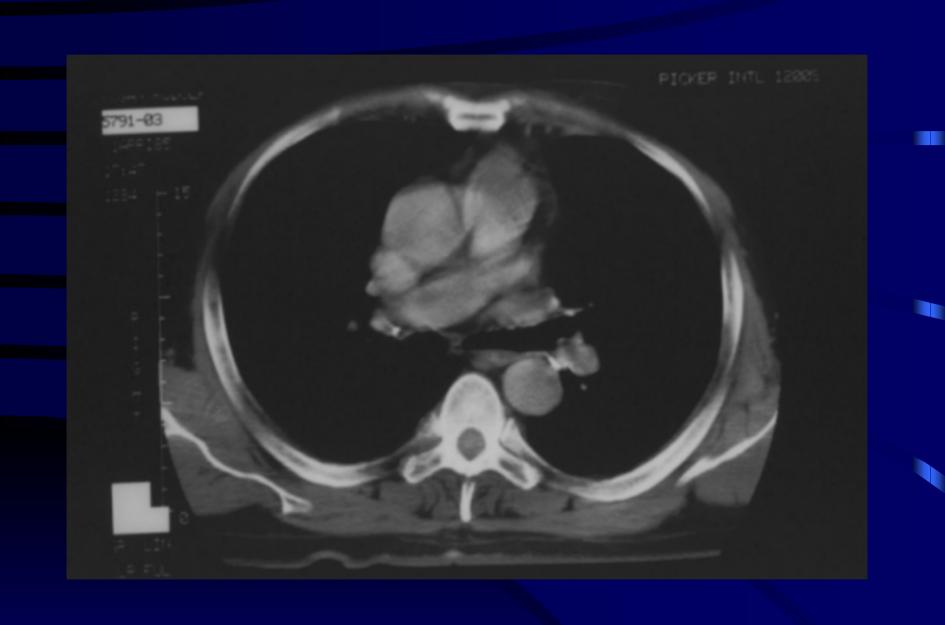






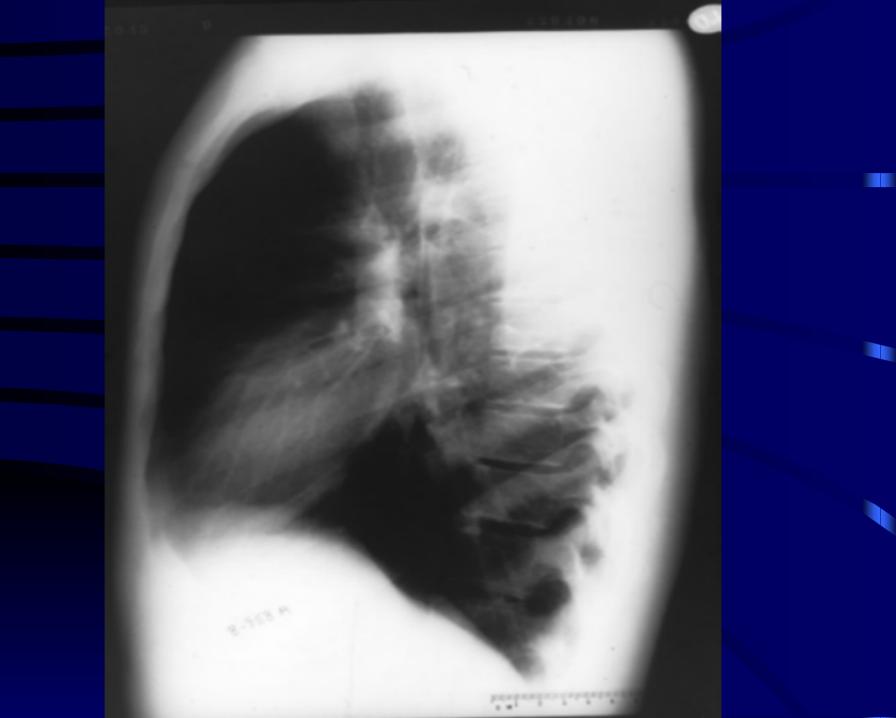


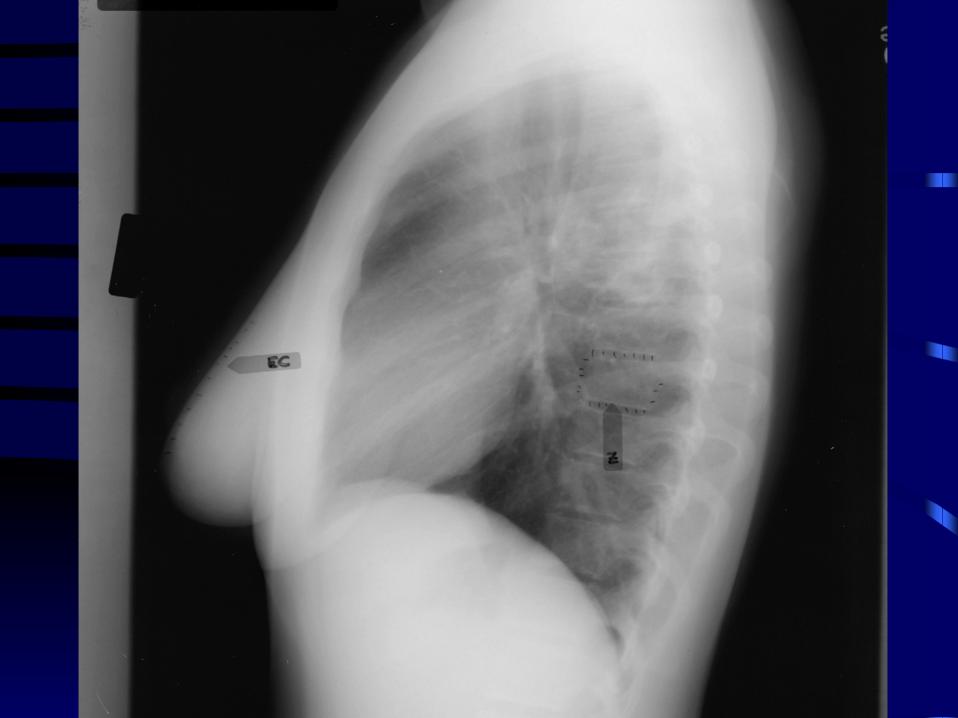




Lateral Posterior Chest

- Spine Bodies and Disc Spaces
- Ribs



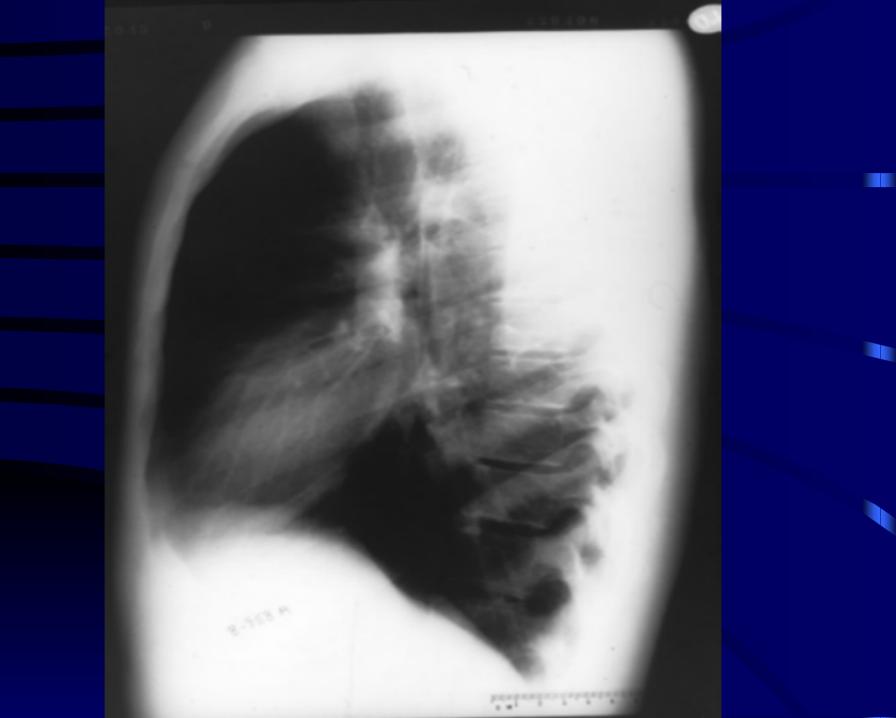






Lateral Diaphragms and Bowel Gas







Lateral Anterior Chest

- Chest Wall
- Sternum

